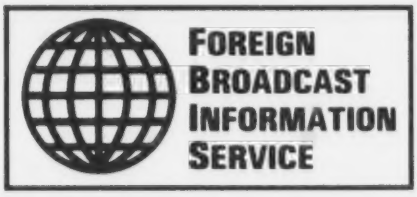

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CIS Defense Ministers Hold Meeting

The CIS Defense Ministers held a meeting in Moscow on 26 May, Moscow TV reports. Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, CIS commander in chief, said in a news conference that all draft agreements discussed will be finalized on the next CIS defense ministers meeting scheduled for 3 July. He said "a great part of Air Force and Navy formations, including the Black Sea Fleet, will be withdrawn from the CIS strategic forces." Shaposhnikov clarified, however, in a separate Moscow TV report, that all nuclear strategic forces will remain under the joint command of the CIS Armed Forces.

Moscow International cites the commander in chief of the CIS forces as saying that the "structure" of the strategic force "will consist of a strategic missile force, airborne and naval nuclear components, the missile attack warning system, anti-missile defense, and part of a space force." He added that "the Black Sea Fleet was not included in the list."

Azerbaijani Acting President's Appeal

Azerbaijani Acting President Isa Gambarov made an "appeal to the people," reports Radio Rossii. Gambarov noted "his primary tasks to get the state of Azerbaijan out of its economic, political, and social crisis and defend Azerbaijan from external aggression." He said "the most essential thing ... was to rebuff Armenia's aggression against soverign, independent Azerbaijan and to get back the territory occupied by the enemy."

Moscow TV cites Karabakh news agency reports about "the arrest in Baku of persons suspected ... of subversive work in favor of neighboring states." "Boris Kevorkov, former first secretary of the Nagorno-Karabakh oblast committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan" was charged "with coordination of sabotage and intelligence activity in favor of a third country." A "witchhunt" in Baku is said to have begun.

Nakhichevan Situation

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan met with the UN Security Council fact-finding mission on 22 May, reports Yerevan International. Ter-Petrosyan stressed that the "Nakhichevan problem is fabricated and pursues certain objectives. Armenia has no contentious problem with Nakhichevan and is ready to sign a bilateral treaty this very day." Armenian Prime Minister Gayik Arutyunyan in a meeting with the Iranian charge d'affaires "declared that his country is ready for the presence of Iranian and international observers on the borders of Armenia with Nakhichevan," reports Tehran Radio.

Moldovan Situation 'Relatively Calm'

Bucharest Radio reports that the Moldovan parliament resumed its special session on 26 May to discuss the situation in the Dniester region. At the conclusion of the session the deputies agreed on issuing an appeal to the parliaments of the world to express "their disapproval of the overt military aggression against the Republic of Moldova; to take action to discourage the aggressor and to support the legitimate demand for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the 14th Army of the Russian Federation," among other things.

President Snegur claimed that "there is irrefutable evidence of the participation of 14th Army units in the armed conflict on the side of the Dniester Region Guards," reports to Russian TV. ITAR-TASS, citing Moldovan Radio, says the conflicting sides signed a cease-fire protocol but notes that the sides are strengthening their positions. Radio Rossii reports that the first group of soldiers of the 14th Army left Moldova on 26 May. It adds that the situation in the conflict area "has remained relatively calm for more than three days, despite isolated shooting incidents."

Kazakh Legislators Oppose U.S. Stance on Tests

LD2605175492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1740 GMT 26 May 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Konstantin Borodinov for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata May 26 TASS—A campaign to collect signatures under an appeal to the U.S. senators went under way at a session of Kazakhstan's Supreme Soviet opened here today. The appeal expresses disagreement with U.S. Secretary of Defence Richard Cheney's statement opposing the termination or curbing of nuclear tests by the United States.

Together with activists of the Nevada-Semipalatinsk public anti-nuclear movement, deputies propose to enter the third millenium without nuclear weapons. To this end, it is necessary that tests be terminated or curbed already today. At one time, Kazakhstan's public scored a convincing victory over the military-industrial complex, as result of which the nuclear test site near Semipalatinsk has been silent for the third year.

"However, American military men are skirting a similar move," says Nevada-Semipalatinsk movement Chairman Olzhas Suleymanov. "How can Richard Cheney's statement that the Soviet test programme was suspended only for ecological reasons be evaluated otherwise?" According to Cheney, the U.S. programme is being implemented very responsibly in terms of ecology.

"Military men in our country also used to state previously that nuclear tests do not harm the environment. I would say with pride that we managed to prove the opposite. We now arrive freely at the Semipalatinsk test range and have access to many documents. We are pressing for the U.S. side, too, to allow us to visit the Nevada range. Our activists were taken somewhere around it but they did not get to its territory," Suleymanov said.

Kazakh Opposition Urges Treaty Rejection

OW2505155592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1505 GMT 25 May 92

[From reports compiled by diplomatic correspondents I. Porshnev, V. Shishlin, and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP); transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [26 May], when Kazakhstan's parliament convenes for its routine session, the national democratic party "Zheltoksan" plans to stage a meeting to demand that the MPs [members of parliament] refrain from ratifying the treaty on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. Otherwise the party will call for the resignation of the Kazakh government, said its chairman Hasen Kazhahmetov in an interview for DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent in Alma-Ata.

Supporters of the "Zholtoksan" party believe that President Nursultan Nazarbayev signed the treaty under pressure brought to bear by the U.S. Administration. They accuse him of having weakened guarantees for Kazakhstan's independence by "making a gift" of nuclear arms to Russia.

As for N. Nazarbayev himself, he strongly denies these charges. On his way to Alma-Ata from Washington he made a brief stop in Moscow. He says that the treaty on collective security in the framework of the CIS signed on May 15 is a reliable guarantor of Kazakhstan's independence. "Even though the nuclear umbrella will be in Russia's territory, it will ensure security for Kazakhstan in full", N. Nazarbayev stressed.

Besides, N. Nazarbayev said, in the course of their meeting in Washington the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker reaffirmed the declaration the U.S. made in 1969 that all denuclearized countries are under the world community's protection.

"Scores of our people have suffered as a result of nuclear tests conducted in Kazakhstan for decades", said President Nazarbayev. According to him, this is "a serious reason for the striving of the people of Kazakhstan to eliminate weapons of mass destruction both on their own soil and in other countries".

China's Nuclear Test, Moratorium Viewed

PM2705085692 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 May 92 p 1

[Interview with Valeriy Bogdan, chief of the secretariat of the Russian Federation Ministry of Atomic Energy, by A. Khokhlov; place and date not given: "While the 'Greens' Look for a Bald Deer, Silos for Nuclear Charges Are Being Prepared in Novaya Zemlya"—first two paragraphs are KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA introduction]

[Text] China carried out its latest underground nuclear explosion on 21 May at the Lobnor nuclear testing range in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (not far from the Russian border). Swedish seismologists assessed its yield at one megatonne. Russian experts are talking about two megatonnes. In any case, it was one of the most powerful nuclear explosions in the world in recent years. And while the two nuclear superpowers, Russia and the United States, are vying with one another in peaceability, a third nuclear giant is emerging in the world.

Valeriy Bogdan, chief of the secretariat of the Russian Federation Ministry of Atomic Energy, answers KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's questions.

[Khokhlov] Have there been explosions of a similar yield in our country?

[Bogdan] Yes, and even bigger. But that was a long time ago. Under the bilateral Treaty Between the USSR and the United States on the Limitation of Underground

Nuclear Tests we started exploding charges of a yield of not more than 150 kilotonnes. China has not concluded any similar treaties.

[Khokhlov] The echo of the underground explosion even reached Sweden. Presumably China was testing a new generation of weapon?

[Bogdan] Third-generation nuclear weapons are low-yield weapons. They are distinguished by high accuracy of delivery to the target and, let us say, certain peculiarities in the destruction of targets and enemy manpower. The Lobnor test indicates that China does not yet have such weapons. But that country's scientists are continuing to develop the national nuclear program.

[Khokhlov] Our nuclear testing ranges have been silent for two years now. Will they "speak" again?

[Bogdan] That is a decision for the Russian Supreme Soviet. The position of the military nuclear experts is clear: You cannot move forward in the development of science and weapons expertise without conducting live tests, without real explosions. The Russian president is acquainted with that view. Yeltsin has promised us support and help.

[Khokhlov] Is it necessary to improve nuclear weapons? Russia already has enough, most likely, to destroy the entire globe.

[Bogdan] No other nuclear power has proposed as many peace initiatives and moratoriums as the USSR, and now Russia. And today the only ones maintaining a "peaceful" silence are ourselves and France, which has also declared a moratorium on tests until the end of 1992. The other states belonging to the "nuclear club" are testing and carrying out explosions. China, for instance. A number of other countries will also become nuclear powers soon. Without the development of military science, without live tests, Russia will not be able to guarantee its own security in 10 years or so.

[Khokhlov] How many nuclear testing ranges does Russia currently have?

[Bogdan] The USSR had two. You can forget Semipalatinsk today: Kazakhstan's position is clearly defined—there are to be no tests. Only the Novaya Zemlya range, the northern range, remains.

[Khokhlov] But the ecological situation in the north of Russia is bad enough already, even without any more nuclear explosions.

[Bogdan] It is no worse there, though unfortunately it is no better either, than in many other regions of Russia. The nuclear contribution to pollution is far smaller than what is "depicted" by those who are today, in my view, whipping up passions over the Novaya Zemlya range.

A highly qualified team led by Professor Ramzayev from the St. Petersburg Institute of Radiation Hygiene has been carrying out a study in the north for 30 years. The radiation factor is by no means in first place on the list of factors having a harmful effect on ecology and on people's health. None of the ecology movement's activists has yet had any success in the search for a bald deer or a fish without scales. No such thing exists, although there are plenty of stories about such anomalous phenomena. It is reminiscent of the episode of the "sensational" photograph of the six-legged foal or calf—the "Chernobyl mutant." Until it turned out that this poor freak was photographed several years before the Chernobyl tragedy, in Yugoslavia.

[Khokhlov] When does the unilateral Russian moratorium on underground nuclear tests expire?

[Bogdan] On 26 October 1992. Nuclear scientists are hoping that the Russian Supreme Soviet and the president will have made a final decision by that time. For the moment, ordinary, standard mining operations are continuing at the Novaya Zemlya range, silos are being prepared for the charges. Whether or not permission is granted for an explosion, we are preparing. But the hope remains that Russia will be able to reach agreement with the United States on the total cessation of nuclear tests. That would be the first step toward a nuclear-free world.

Foreign Ministry Comments on START Protocol

LD2605193492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] A briefing for journalists accredited in Moscow took place at the Russian Foreign Ministry Press Center today. Correspondent Aleksey Sokolov reports.

[Sokolov] Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, director of the Information and Press Department of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, highly appraised the results of the recent visit paid to Russia by Lech Walesa, president of the Republic of Poland, the documents that were signed and, in particular, the treaty on friendly and good-neighborly cooperation. Yastrzhembskiy described the visit as a radical shift forward in the relations between Russia and Poland. The treaty between Russia and Kazakhstan, on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance, was highly appraised.

[Begin Yastrzhembskiy recording] The treaty bears witness to the important significance of cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan for the preservation and consolidation of the Commonwealth. The treaty should demonstrate to all in what peaceful and amicable manner the questions of relations between independent states can be resolved, on the basis of civilized approaches. [end recording]

[Sokolov] The director of the Information and Press Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry also read out the Russian side's statement during the signing of the protocol to the START Treaty in Lisbon. This is what it says, in particular:

[Begin Yastrzhembskiy recording] The protocol makes it possible to take a serious step in the cause of the strengthening of the regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Russian side proceeds from the fact that the obligations enshrined in the messages from the highest leaders of the Byelarusian Republic, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Ukraine to the U.S. president, have been undertaken also with regard to all the other START Treaty signatory countries.

The Russian Federation also proceeds from this: that once a period of seven years, following the coming into force of the treaty on limiting and reducing strategic offensive arms, has expired, neither nuclear warheads for strategic arms, nor strategic vehicles for their delivery will be deployed on the territory of the Republic of Byelarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Ukraine. The Russian side sees the obligations of the Republic of Byelarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Ukraine to join the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as soon as possible as participating states which have no nuclear weapons at their disposal as an integral and extraordinarily important part of the package.

The Russian side confirms that it sees the Republic of Byelarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Ukraine as states that have no nuclear weapons at the time of the signing of the protocol and notes that their participation in the protocol confirms and strengthens their non-nuclear status. Signing the protocol, we noted with satisfaction that the provisions wholly and fully conform to the accords on nuclear weapons achieved within the CIS framework and, in particular, in the 30 December 1991 Minsk agreement on the strategic forces which provides for the procedure and timescales for the dismantling of this type of weapons, including those currently in Ukraine, by the end of 1994. [end recording]

Yablokov Faults Calls for Arms Development

PM2205093192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 May 92 First Edition p 2

[Article by Aleksey Yablokov, Russian Federation state counselor on policy in the sphere of ecology and health protection: "We Will Frighten Everyone So Much That We Will End Up Being Afraid of Ourselves"]

[Text] It has recently been asserted, in the pages of many newspapers, that we should develop our atomic industry at least to the same extent as used to happen in the USSR—both as regards nuclear power stations [AES's], and as regards the development [razrabotka] of nuclear weapons. Here it is persistently emphasized that our atomic experts—the people who make atomic weapons and are associated with atomic power—are motivated exclusively by concern for the country's good and the people's good. "The people have trusted us, they have believed in our ability not just to create such awesome weapons, but also to exercise control over them. In my view, we have never yet abused that trust"—that is how nuclear weapon designer Radiy Ilkayev concludes an article in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA for 25 April 1992 under the heading "Portrait of a Nuclear Complex." And V.N. Mikhaylov, Russian minister of atomic energy, claims (ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, 7 May 1992) that nuclear weapons are a "defense of our free choice" of a path of progress "which is worthy of our people."

These statements by leaders of the nuclear industry are designed to convince us all of the correctness of the chosen course of developing the nuclear weapons complex. However, the development of this complex is not so much a technical problem as a political problem. No political problem can be discussed solely by a small group of specialists. I am therefore obliged not only to draw attention to contentious assertions by our esteemed nuclear experts, but also to examine a number of questions that have not attracted their attention, but are important in resolving the entire problem.

As R. Ilkayev rightly noted, atomic weapons and power are "twin brothers," with a shared history and a shared radiation danger to all life. And basically with shared economic and philosophical problems. Elitism and secrecy have always characterized people working in the nuclear weapon complex. But what is far more important is that their actions have immeasurably greater significance for the future of mankind than the edicts of the most formidable dictator (the price of the actions of a few people at Chernobyl was the ruined lives of many millions!). That is why, in theory, atomic experts should have no right to make mistakes. Unfortunately, experience shows that atomic experts, like the rest of us, can make mistakes, can be wrong, and can even tell trivial lies, dragging all of us into an even more terrible, planet-wide Chernobyl.

The designers of the famous RBMK [high-power pressure tube] reactors deceived us when they claimed that AES's with these reactors are safe. But they **knew** about the dangers! And they still insisted on building them. They **know** that even now we have no safe reactors. But again they insist on continuing to build AES's. They **know** that the problem of the burial of radioactive waste has not been solved, that when the life of an AES is over, dismantling it and reducing it to a "green field" costs the kind of resources that we are not going to have in the foreseeable future. And they still insist on the development of the nuclear power industry.

For the record: Before an AES whose life is over can be dismantled, it has to be mothballed for decades. Throughout the period of mothballing, apart from duty specialists, the AES also needs heat and electricity. After that, when just one reactor is dismantled, it will be necessary to remove elsewhere and to bury some 40,000 tonnes of metal structures and 400,000 tonnes of concrete. The designers know that if all this work, plus expenditure on the burial of radioactive waste, is added to the cost of the AES, cost recovery will prove mythical. They know that, yet they insist on building them, deferring the solving of all these problems to future generations of Russian people. Are we morally entitled to do

this? Are we entitled to let the genie out of the bottle if we do not know how to put it back in?

A few years ago, as one of a group of experts, I visited the South Ukrainian AES. We asked the director how often there are failures [nedoladki] in their operation. The answer was simple: It does not happen. But someone had the bright idea of asking why bonuses were paid to groups of maintenance workers whose names appeared on the honor board. And the director had to admit publicly that failures occur regularly and have to be heroically eliminated, for which bonus payments have to be made.

The atomic experts' lie was also heard in the summer of 1989 at parliamentary hearings on the Kyshtym accident of 1957. Are all the people irradiated during that terrible explosion of radioactive waste at the Chelyabinsk "Mayak" combine being kept under medical observation? Yes, we were told, all without exception. And the results of these observations, formulated in graphs and tables, were not at all terrifying. At that time we, the members of the Ecology Committee of the former USSR Supreme Soviet, did not yet know that a significant proportion of the irradiated population had been forcibly shipped out and dispersed across the country.

Our nuclear experts' utterances are striking for their unshakable conviction that they are right. This conviction does not allow them to examine their own problems objectively.

For example, the "hottest" issue at the moment is that of nuclear tests. First they tell us that the question of continuing tests is a political one. Then they say to us that the tests are necessary from a purely technical viewpoint (as a safety check). Finally, V.N. Mikhaylov clearly contradicts this when he writes: "Of course, in order to provide guarantees against unexpected **political or technical** events...it is necessary to secure by international treaty an annual minimum number of tests..." No matter whether a political decision is made, whether new techniques are found for monitoring [proverka] safety—in any event, our nuclear experts must have guarantees that tests will continue! Why so? In order to "prevent the decay of unique collectives of highly skilled professionals." How does this approach differ from the much maligned departmental approaches? On the basis of this principle decades were spent constructing bigger and bigger power stations and digging grander and grander canals—to avoid dispersing the established collectives of construction workers!

Maybe the time has come to tell our outstandingly gifted nuclear experts: "Thank-you, my friends, you have done the important job well, now venture into other areas!" In fact, it appears this process has already begun. As is known, the most active and skilled cadres are quitting the development of nuclear weapons. Indeed, need we fear "irreversible decay," or, rather, the fundamental restructuring of our nuclear weapons complex, if the weapons we already have can destroy the entire world population many times over?

The claim that verification [kontrol] techniques need to be improved is extremely controversial. As an analogy I would remind you of the long debate about monitoring [kontrol] bacteriological weapons production. In the end it became clear to everyone that the process was unmonitorable. So a solution was found: Under a 1991 law actions of that kind became a **criminal offense** in the United States. This outstandingly important legal act marks a new era in legal relationships, and maybe even a new stage in the history of mankind: a national representative authority's recognition of a global level of responsibility.

V.N. Mikhaylov talks of the possibility of "safe" underground nuclear explosions. There is no such thing. Not just because we do not know all the consequences of nuclear explosions (radiobiological, geophysical, climatic, hydrogeological, and others). When nuclear devices were detonated above soldiers near Orenburg in the fifties and hundreds of other nuclear devices were exploded in the atmosphere at the Novaya Zemlya and Semipalatinsk test sites, even the most eminent scientists claimed at the time that all the consequences were already known. We now know they were mistaken: Many future generations will suffer the consequences of these explosions.

There are still those who think nuclear explosions deep in the permafrost are safe. But how do you explain the cases of leukemia in children in the Vilyuy basin? You need only look at the map of geophysical contours of the series of nuclear explosions in the seventies on Russian territory to see that the effect of a single explosion is traceable over a distance of several **thousand** kilometers.

We are assured that "nuclear tests are the basis of the country's scientific and technical potential." In my view, this claim is an insult to the country that gave the world Dokuchayev and Vernadskiy, Pavlov and Mechnikov, Timofeyev-Resovskiy and Krylov, Tsiolkovskiy and Vavilov, Shubnikov and Karpinskiy, Zhukovskiy and Lyapunov. And many other thinkers whose pupils in fact comprise the scientific and technical potential that will provide for the future development of agriculture, medicine, biotechnology, and the national economy in general, and not only its military sector.

Let us be honest and admit that the nuclear genie attracts our attention because it has in it a power that is mysterious to man, that he has not mastered. As a scientist, I am well aware that the human learning process is infinite and there is no task more magical for the researcher than that of stepping into the unknown. But in the case of nuclear tests we have reached the point where the researcher has to stop. This has to be done not just for political and ethical reasons (as A.D. Sakharov did, for example), but also for economic reasons. After all, it costs several billion rubles per year to continue nuclear

tests. And the nuclear explosions do not mean that there is more on the shelves; in fact, there is less.

V.N. Mikhaylov's position as head of our nuclear weapons complex gives rise to a whole series of serious political, economic, and ecological questions. For example, how is one supposed to read, for example, the claim that "nuclear weapons are today first and foremost a means of maintaining global...economic stability"? Why is the prohibition of nuclear weapons development an "alternative to nuclear equilibrium"? How can one use the existence of unstable political regions and aggressive neighbors as justification for the need to use nuclear weapons? And how is one supposed to take the thesis of the possible continuation of nuclear explosions **outside** the nuclear test sites? Are we actually going to revert to the practice of nuclear explosions for so-called peaceful purposes—in Yakutia, near Astrakhan, Orenburg, Irkutsk, Chita, Naryan-Mar, Tomsk, and Kostroma? Finally, why, if we regard nuclear weapons as a deterrent factor, must we endeavor to create more and more new versions of them, including "ecologically cleaner" ones? You would think that the "dirtier" and more awesome the weapon of deterrence, the less willing any aggressor would be to start a war. Indeed, there would be no winners in such a nuclear war. Let the Americans (if they have the spare billions of dollars) invent ultra-accurate and ecologically cleaner nuclear munitions. Our hundreds of ecologically dirty and not particularly accurate nuclear weapons may be sufficient to deter anyone.

I must not ignore two political aspects of V.N. Mikhaylov's article which are important for an appreciation of my opponents' logic. In the first place, they make no distinction between Russia and the USSR. The Russian minister writes about cutting the program "from 15 tests per year on average **in the country's two test sites** to four tests." But on the territory of my country—Russia—there is only one nuclear test site, and in 1964-1990 on average two tests per year were carried out there by the former Union departments. Now the minister is proposing doubling the number of tests on the territory of Russia!

Second, the Russian Federation has not yet conducted a single nuclear test of its own. Nuclear tests used to be conducted by the USSR Defense Ministry and USSR Ministry of Medium Machine Building. The fact that Russia is the USSR's legal heir does not at all mean that we have to work on all the strategic military programs the Union was working on.

Does the Russian president have to assume the awesome responsibility of starting Russian nuclear tests? I would add that, as far as I know, there is as yet no legislatively approved mechanism for authorizing nuclear tests. In the USSR this mechanism comprised a decision by the CPSU Central Coimmittee Politburo and the mysterious Military-Industrial Commission. In the United States this principled decision is made by parliament. Our parliament has so far kept out of the political discussion of nuclear strategy issues.

Let me sum up. The USSR nuclear weapons copmplex must not be revived in Russia unaltered. Its program needs to be not just cut, but radically revised. The president, parliament, and government must decide whether we really need new types of weapons? In the conditions of our disbalanced economy can we satisfy the research interests of some of our scienists by conducting ultraexpensive nuclear explosions? Are the nuclear weapons we already have not enough to deter all and sundry for many, many years to come?

We have to know why we or the United States need to create new nuclear weapon systems. Maybe to threaten one another or other countries? If it is not for this, but for "technical progress" and for the purpose of developing scientific thought, then is it not better to do all this in conjunction with the United States, France, Britain, China, and the other nuclear countries? It would certainly be cheaper and safer for all countries, and progress would be far more significant.

Finally, all the aforesaid should not be seen as an appeal for unilateral nuclear disarmament and the destruction of our nuclear defense complex. All I am calling for is an end to the development of a third generation of nuclear weapons that is politically meaningless in the modern world, and thus for an end to the new round of the arms race, which only benefits military-industrial circles, not states and peoples—Russia, the United States, and others.

CIS Defense Ministers Hold Meeting in Moscow

Shaposhnikov on 14th Army

LD2605130692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 26 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Marshal Shaposhnikov, commander of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, assembled a meeting of defense ministers of Commonwealth countries in Moscow today. Questions of the structure of the CIS Joint Armed Forces command and of nuclear weapons are being discussed. Our information today is that of the Commonwealth Republics Russia has 15,000 nuclear weapons, Ukraine has 6,000, and Byelarus has 2,000; Kazakhstan has 1,200.

[Unidentified correspondent] The heads of the military departments of 10 republics have gathered in the former headquarters of the Warsaw Pact to make amendments to the common military policy in connection with the signing of the collective security treaty in Tashkent. As you know, so far only six of the eleven countries in the CIS are members of this treaty. Not present at the session are the ministers of defense of Azerbaijan and Moldova. The Georgian defense minister is taking part as an observer.

For the time being the generals and marshals of the sovereign republics wear the same uniform and insignia, but this is not the most burdensome legacy of the former Soviet Army—there remain the nuclear weapons and the single antimissile and antiaircraft defense system, the system for identification of friend and foe, and other military devices requiring detailed coordination.

Judging by all accounts, participants in the meeting are inclined to constructive debate. Ultimately, the fate of the meetings of CIS heads of state in Moscow on 6 July depends on just how successful their work is.

The strategic forces guaranteeing our security against an enemy without are under control. But war has come upon us from within. There is no hindrance to conventional weapons from army arsenals getting into the hands of partisan formations. Soldiers and officers are abandoning subordination to their commanders in crisis situations. Will these problems be discussed?

[Begin video recording of interview with Marshal Shaposhnikov] These will be discussed individually. They will not be discussed at as big a conference as this. I have, specifically, sent a letter to the president of Moldova and to the Dniester region leader, to the prime minister and the minister of defense of Moldova and to Netkachev, commander of the 14th Army, saying that the army has never ever been a destabilizing factor in Moldova. [end recording]

Future 'Composition' of Forces Noted

LD2605173892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1621 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 26 May—The position of the Moldovan parliament and leadership on the Dniester conflict was not discussed at the Council of CIS Defense Ministers meeting today because that state's representative was absent, Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, CIS commander in chief, told a news conference on the results of today's meeting.

News conference participants noted that the leaders of the CIS states' military departments initialled draft agreements and documents on the definitive composition of the CIS strategic forces, on systems for warning against missile attack [SWMA] and control of outer space, on air defense systems and radar identification of installations, and others. The structure and functions of the CIS forces high command in connection with the signing of the collective security treaty was discussed but not initialled.

Answering a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent on what tasks the CIS forces high command will tackle under the new conditions, Marshal Shaposhnikov said that his important tasks will include maintaining combat readiness at an appropriate level, the operational command of strategic forces, coordinating military issues of the treaty process, and the prevention and operational response to local conflicts which could possibly take place on the Commonwealth's outer borders.

The unified forces commander in chief also underlined that the list of units and formations which belong to the Commonwealth strategic forces and which is being discussed at present has been reduced to a minimum. In practice, what will be at isssue in the future are nuclear forces, i.e. strategic rocket forces, the nuclear component of the Air Force, the Navy nuclear triad, the SWMA, and the space units. Thus, a great part of Air Force and Navy formations, including the Black Sea Fleet, will be withdrawn from the CIS strategic forces.

It has been decided that all the draft agreements that were discussed today will be put forward for finalization at the next meeting of the CIS Council of Defense Ministers on 3 July, the day before a CIS summit in Moscow.

News Conference Held

LD2605194492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 26 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Control of all nuclear strategic forces remains under the CIS Armed Forces joint command. Marshal Shaposhnikov, CIS Armed Forces commander in chief,

held a regular conference in Moscow today on the structure of the joint Armed Forces command, nuclear weapons, and the military's role in conflicts:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent V. Luskanov] The heads of the military departments of ten republics gathered in the former Warsaw Pact headquarters to revise overall military policy after the signing of the collective security treaty in Tashkent. Only six of the 11 CIS states are treaty members. The Azerbaijani and Moldovan defense ministers did not attend the session, and Georgia's deputy defense minister is attending as an observer. [passage omitted]

War has scorched us from within, and conventional weapons are finding their way—unhindered—into the hands of partisan formations. Soldiers and officers in crisis situations are moving away from the subordination of their commanders. Will these problems be discussed?

[Shaposhnikov] They will be discussed separately but not at a large conference like this. Among other things, I have written the Moldovan president, the leader of the Dniester region, the prime minister and defense minister of Moldova, and 14th Army Commander Netkachev to the effect that the army has never been a destabilizing factor in Moldova. [end recording]

Shaposhnikov Discusses Meeting

LD2605230592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2010 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] The defense ministers of the Commonwealth countries have held a conference in Moscow which was followed by a meeting with the press. All countries of the Commonwealth, except for Moldova, attended the conference. Due to the absence, the Council of Defense Ministers did not discuss the grave situation in Moldova. There was also an observer from Georgia in Moscow. At the request of Radio Moscow International, the commander in chief of the joint armed forces, Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, described the meeting.

[Begin Shaposhnikov recording in Russian with superimposed translation into English] Firstly, it was a preparatory meeting before the next Commonwealth summit, due in Moscow on 6 July. We discussed a number of draft documents that would be finalized and later submitted to the chief coordinator and then the summit. Secondly, the meeting was another stage in building the joint armed forces. The most formidable and complicated question on the agenda was the structure and functions of the chief command of the joint armed forces considering the collective security treaty recently signed in Tashkent.

The general functions of the chief command should be the maintenance of the defense capability of the joint forces; operational command; the prevention of, and rapid response to local conflicts along the borders of the former Union, but not inside them, which was emphasized at the news conference.

Still the issue has not been finalized. Therefore, the military leaders decided to hold another meeting on the issue in Moscow on 3 July. Still the defense ministers practically fully agreed on a whole package of documents regulating the operation of such vital elements of the military infrastructure as the missile attack warning system, air defense, and some others. The structure of the strategic force of the Commonwealth was finalized. It will consist of a strategic missile force, airborne and naval nuclear components, the missile attack warning system, anti-missile defense, and part of a space force.

The Black Sea Fleet was not included in the list. Work on these documents will continue. [end recording]

International Affairs

'Arab Terrorist Group' Raided in St. Petersburg

MK2205164592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 May 92 p 1

[Denis Gurinskiy report under the "Terrorism" rubric: "St. Petersburg Intelligence Officers on Trail of Arab Terrorists. Representatives of St. Petersburg Directorate of Ministry of Security Say That Investigation Will Soon Affect Interstate Relations With a Number of Arab Countries"]

[Text] The official report from the Russian state security service's St. Petersburg Directorate regarding an operation to stop an Arab terrorist group was extremely terse and unintelligible. It emerged from this report that on 18 May, operational subunits of the directorate's antiterrorist services and investigation units raided Arab circles in St. Petersburg on suspicion that they were preparing for acts of terrorism in the St. Petersburg area. The official dispatch also indicated that the operation was a success and made it possible to thoroughly search and cross-examine a group of suspects. The directorate's press service later cited investigators as saying that criminal proceedings would be instituted against several Arab temporary residents of St. Petersburg for their part in preparing the acts of terrorism. That was where the official report ended, while senior officials from the Big House—Russia's second largest intelligence headquarters after the Lubyanka—informed the press of a moratorium on any reports on this until 1000 on 29 May. During a conversation, Yevgeniy Lukin, chief of the directorate's press service, attributed the secrecy of the investigation to the fact that both the operation itself and the study of its results probably will affect Russia's interstate relations with Arab countries and, therefore, the early release of the details may have an undesirable effect. Nevertheless, Lukin confirmed that it is a question of a serious terrorist conspiracy and that the investigation is being carried out by a special team of investigators and the antiterrorist service. I learned from sources close to the leadership of the St. Petersburg state security directorate that three or four Palestinian students currently are being investigated following their arrests by intelligence officers as a preventive measure, just when they virtually had finished preparations for a series of terrorist acts against diplomats from a number of Western consulates in St. Petersburg. According to certain reports, St. Petersburg intelligence officers confiscated weapons, ammunition, and large sums of money from these students. Typically, the raid came after official representatives of the Russian Ministry of Security said in Moscow that they had information regarding preparations for acts of terrorism against foreign diplomats accredited in Russia. Observers regard this operation by the St. Petersburg state security service as the Russian special services' first operation to stop foreign terrorists.

Foreign Minister Kozyrev Resumes Yugoslav Trip

Arrives in Ljubljana

LD2505204192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 25 May 92

[Aleksandr Pogodin commentary]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has arrived in Slovenia's capital Ljubljana. This is the second stage of his working tour of the Union Republic of Yugoslavia and the states that were earlier part of the Yugoslav Federation. Last week Andrey Kozyrev had talks with the leaders of Serbia and Montenegro.

This time the Russian foreign minister is expected to hold hard talks in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Hercegovina and Macedonia. The fact that the talks are going to be hard is clear since the Russian foreign minister will meet representatives of the contending parties and will try to do his best to promote mutual understanding. He also intends to offer his services as mediator and plans to bring together representatives of all the belligerents.

The complexity of such plans is seen from the previous experience of the United Nations' missions, the efforts of the European Community and individual states. Nonetheless, Russian diplomacy hopes the contending parties can reach an accord and a political solution may be found.

Experts believe that Russia's traditional relations with the Balkan countries may help in the case. It's expected that Belgrade and capitals of the other states on the territory of the former Yugoslav Federation will heed to Moscow's opinion.

Russia's peacemaking effort in the region does not mean it has disassociated itself from the world community in the matter. True, Russia's approaches to certain problems differ. Say, it disfavours the expulsion of the Union Republic of Yugoslavia from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe on the ground that no participant should be excluded from the European process. But this does not mean that Russia approves of Belgrade's actions in Bosnia and Croatia.

The importance of Russia's diplomatic effort and its wish to use to the full all its potentials [as heard] for a peace settlement in Yugoslavia is becoming ever more obvious, the more so since some Western countries have toughened their stance against Serbia and even do not draw the line at using force. Such views were notably expressed during the international conference in Lisbon last week. In this situation, a sense of responsibility and searches for new ways to a peace settlement are a must.

Meets With Presidium

LD2505175292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1706 GMT 25 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Ljubljana May 25 TASS—Russia and Slovenia see no obstacles which could impede the development of full-scale and normal relations in all spheres, chairman of the Presidium of the Republic of Slovenia Milan Kucan told TASS on Monday [25 May] after meeting visiting Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

The protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, signed during Kozyrev's visit, is to a certain extent a formal act, as friendly relations traditionally existed between the two countries, he added.

Kucan added that today there are exclusively beneficial conditions to promote the relations in political, economic, cultural and other spheres and to hold an interesting dialogue between Ljubljana and Moscow.

Praises Talks in Zagreb

LD2605121492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1007 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Zagreb, 26 May—Concluding his working visit to Croatia, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated to journalists here that the current development of Russo-Croatian links "is a transition to a new phase of full-scale mutual cooperation."

The minister emphasized that the talks in Zagreb were highly substantive and useful, and that during the talks the prospects for economic interaction were discussed in detail. Kozyrev said that a Russian delegation is to visit Croatia soon with the aim of concluding concrete accords on the broadening of economic links.

Andrey Kozyrev also reported that the Russian delegation's peace mission to Sarajevo has received the approval of the Croatian side.

Croatian Foreign Minister Zvonimir Separovic described the talks in Zagreb between Croatia and Russia as successful and fruitful for the further broadening of bilateral links. He expressed gratitude to Russia for its recognition of Croatian independence and its support in international organizations.

From Zagreb, the Russian minister arrived in Belgrade, which he immediately left by helicopter for Sarajevo. After Kozyrev's return from the capital of Bosnia-Hercegovina to Belgrade this evening, he will leave on board his TU-134 plane for the Macedonian resort of Ohrid, where on 27 May he will hold talks with the leadership of Macedonia.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 1110 GMT on 26 May carries a corrected rerun of the above item to correct "technical distortions". In the ITAR-TASS rerun, in graf two, sentence two, the orginal phrase "is to visit Croatia" is replaced by the phrase "will come to Croatia". The ITAR-TASS rerun also omits the final paragraph of the original item.]

Departs for Sarajevo

LD2605104292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0928 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Aleksandr Kondrashov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Belgrade, 26 May—On completion of his working visits to Slovenia and Croatia, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev today left Belgrade by air for Sarajevo.

This is the minister's second attempt to visit the capital of Bosnia-Hercegovina and to meet representatives of its ethnic communities to offer Russia's possible offices as peace intermediary to stop the bloodshed. Kozyrev tried to reach Sarajevo from Belgrade first on 21 May, but unsuitable flying weather in the mountains en route forced his helicopter to return to Belgrade.

Weather conditions are considerably better today. It is thought that the minister's helicopter will land in a suburb of Sarajevo controlled by the Serbian community. The journey will continued by armored vehicle across the line of confrontation into the town center, which is controlled by the Muslim community. A meeting should be held in the building of the Presidium of Bosnia-Hercegovina with Alija Izetbegovic, chairman of the Presidium of the republic, who is the leader of the Muslim community. Meetings are also proposed with representatives of Bosnia's Serb and Croatian communities.

The Russian minister was greeted and seen off at Belgrade airport by Vladimir Sultanovic, acting head of the foreign policy department of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and Serbian Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic.

Arrives by Helicopter

LD2605131192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1222 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Sarajevo, 26 May—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived in Sarajevo today by helicopter from Belgrade. He reached the center of the city by UN armored personnel carriers across the line of confrontation between the Serbian and Muslim communities. He has begun talks in the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency with Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency, on a possible mediating mission by Russia to end the bloodshed.

Cease-Fire Urged

LD2605224992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2215 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Sarajevo May 27 TASS—Chairman of the Bosnia and Hercegovina presidium Alija Izetbegovic and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev call on all sides to cease fire at 6 A.M. on Wednesday, May 27, and begin work to restore the Sarajevo Airport.

Speaking to correspondents in Sarajevo upon the completion of the three-hour negotiations with Izetbegovic on Tuesday [26 May], Andrey Kozyrev outlined seven key issues of the republican settlement.

Conditions for the conflict solution are

—the recognition of territorial integrity and independence of Bosnia and Hercegovina,

—the achievement of political settlement through negotiations at a conference under the European Communities aegis,

—cease-fire,

—participation of the U.N. forces in the settlement process,

—unblocking of communication ways,

—fulfillment of agreements on evacuation of military barracks,

—resumption of functioning of the Sarajevo airport.

At 6 A.M. on Wednesday [27 May] fire must be stopped and initial technical works must begin to restore the airport so it could receive planes carrying humanitarian cargo for the local population, said the Russian foreign minister.

In Kozyrev's words, Belgrade and other (?parties) he has met have agreed to support this call if an agreement on this issue between communities is reached in Sarajevo. In this case the guarantee of it is the word of Alija Izetbegovic, assurances received in Belgrade and simultaneous assistance of the U.N. forces.

The minister stressed his negotiations with Izetbegovic were held in the spirit of mutual understanding.

In the opinion of Izetbegovic, the conversation with the Russian minister was very useful. Their stands on a number of topical issues coincided. This includes the Russian stand on sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Hercegovina, truce in all regions of combat operations, the withdrawal of the Yugoslav Army from the republic and the role of the United Nations as the guarantee of truce.

Comments on Sarajevo Talks

LD2705081392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0732 GMT 27 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Aleksandr Kondrashov and Shmelev]

[Text] Belgrade, 27 May—Seven points, concerning the cease-fire in particular, were agreed from the political point of view during talks in Sarajevo with Alija Izetbegovic, chairman of the Presidium of Bosnia-Hercegovina. They were supported by all sides, Andrey Kozyrev, the Russian minister of foreign affairs stated to journalists at Belgrade Airport. On his way from Sarajevo to Macedonia—the last stage of his visit to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY] and the states-former republics of the SFRY—he made a brief stopover in Belgrade to inform the leadership of the FRY and Serbia about the results of his talks in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Andrey Kozyrev particularly singled out several "direct action" points—a cease-fire on the territory of the airport and on the road leading from the airport to Sarajevo, and the opening of the airport for the delivery of humanitarian aid, with the assistance of a UN contingent. These matters need to be agreed at a meeting with the leadership of the FRY and Serbia planned for 0600, 27 May.

Earlier, the minister said, I secured Belgrade's agreement that if I managed to reach agreement on these points with the leaders of Bosnia-Hercegovina then the leadership of the FRY and Serbia would support these proposals. He did not exclude the possibility of the introduction of sanctions if either of the sides did not implement the accords reached. However, he said, the situation must not be oversimplified, for things have already gone so far that, evidently, uncontrollable forces are operating.

Russia, Andrey Kozyrev continued, together with other interested states should in the near future make three or four specific proposals on the prevention of such conflicts. These are, in particular, the renunciation of territorial claims, various types of theories about "great peoples" who bear within them the idea of territorial claims, and the creation of ethnically pure regions.

Kozyrev Ordered To End Trip

LD2605174892 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1349 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 26 (TANJUG)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin told the Russian INTERFAX agency on Tuesday [26 May] that he had asked Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to break off his visit to Belgrade.

Yeltsin explained the move with the need for Kozyrev to meet with the Ukrainian foreign minister and prepare the meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian leaders.

Kozyrev had been visiting the former Yugoslav republics for the past two days. He visited Ljubljana (capital of Slovenia) on Monday [25 May] and signed a protocol with Slovenian Foreign Minister Rupel on the setting up of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

On Tuesday [26 May], Kozyrev did the same in Zagreb, capital of secessionist Croatia, another former Yugoslav republic.

After this Kozyrev travelled to Sarajevo, capital of the war-torn former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina. Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, was supposed to be the last leg in Kozyrev's tour of the former Yugoslav republics.

Kozyrev was also expected to meet with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Vice-President of the Yugoslav Presidency Branko Kostic with whom he had met a week ago, during his first visit to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Kozyrev met with the leaderships of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its two republics—Serbia and Montenegro, in Belgrade and Podgorica (Montenegro) last week.

That visit had also been interupted by Yeltsin, because he considered Kozyrev's presence at the parliamentary debate on the Crimea necessary.

Arrives in Macedonia

LD2705020692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2335 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Aleksandr Kondrashov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 27 May—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev today flew from Belgrade to the Macedonian town of Ohrid. He is on a working visit to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the state-republics of the former SFRY. [passage omitted]

Kozyrev Visits Lisbon for Talks, Meetings

Meets German Foreign Minister

LD2405013192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0050 GMT 24 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Lisbon, 24 May—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, here on an official visit, has met with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. The talks between the two countries' diplomacy chiefs focused on bilateral relations. Klaus Kinkel announced that he attaches "exceptional significance" to German-Russian relations and plans to continue the "Genscher line" on this issue.

The ministers held a detailed discussion on the current tension in a number of European areas, primarily Yugoslavia. Kinkel expressed the hope that Russia, with its traditional links in this region, will continue its efforts for peace and be able to achieve some kind of result. Kozyrev briefed his counterpart on his recent trip to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the republics of the former SFRY and discussed his intention to resume his visit to that region immediately after the Lisbon forum.

Regarding the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, it is the Russian minister's opinion that "there is no feeling that the conflicting sides are ready for any kind of compromise." Both ministers agreed on the need to actively employ CSCE channels and to step up preparatory work for the Minsk conference on Nagorno-Karabakh.

The ministers also reviewed the progress of preparations for the G-7 meeting in Munich, with K. Kinkel saying that a special representative of the German Government will arrive in Russia in the very near future to discuss these preparations.

During the talks, the German foreign minister raised the question of the fate of former GDR leader Erich Honecker, noting that when he was justice minister he held talks in person with his Russian counterpart Nikolay Fedorov on the issue. "As soon as the opportunity arises and Honecker leaves the Chilean Embassy in Moscow and comes to Germany", Kinkel said, "he can count on a judicial investigation in full and scrupulous compliance with all the legal norms and rules of a civilized state."

At the conclusion of the talks, A. Kozyrev invited the German foreign minister to make an official visit to Russia at a convenient time.

Possible NATO Intervention Viewed

PM2605150392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 May 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Boris Rodionov report: "NATO Intervention in Bosnia on the Horizon"]

[Text] The possibility of international military intervention in the Bosnian crisis is acquiring increasingly realistic outlines. "Serbia must be brought to its knees," stated the new FRG foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, according to a DPA report.

During a meeting with Russian Federation Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev in Lisbon, Kinkel did, it is true, somewhat soften the tone, expressing the hope that Russia, with its traditional ties in Yugoslavia, will continue its peacemaking efforts and will be able to achieve a certain result, an ITAR-TASS correspondent reports from the Portuguese capital.

Given that the proposal to introduce the most drastic sanctions (admittedly, excluding military ones) against Serbia at an EC level has not yet gotten passed, the conference of high-ranking EC diplomats in Lisbon

resolved to set up a group of experts and discuss the question of sanctions with Washington and Moscow.

The convening of the Security Council is possible, where limited military action in Bosnia and Hercegovina will be proposed to lift the blockade of Serb-encircled Sarajevo Airport and establish a supply of humanitarian aid to the starving city. Among the international organizations which could realistically carry out this action, NATO is cited first and foremost. Will Moscow agree to this? Meanwhile the United States has announced the closure of two of the three Yugoslav consulates in the United States.

The Serbian side is being forced into trying to justify itself. It puts the delay in withdrawing army subunits from Sarajevo down to the fact that Muslims who are not obeying the republic leadership have failed to lift the seige of army barracks. Nevertheless, the evacuation of the barracks is promised for Sunday, REUTER reports, citing a Federal Army representative.

While the West and the Islamic world sound the alarm over the position of the Muslim population of Bosnia and Hercegovina (it was only on the third day that several thousand hostages, who have safely arrived in the port of Split, were released), Belgrade is drawing the international community's attention to another tragedy. Some 3,500 Serbian refugees have now been detained by Croats in the stadium of a military camp in Bosnia and Hercegovina for over a week. This is reported by ITAR-TASS.

Ukrainian Talks on Crimea Continue in Moscow

Ukraine Takes 'Tough' Stance

PM2505133792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 May 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "Russian Supreme Soviet Discusses Crimean Issue Behind Closed Doors"]

[Text] Journalists arriving at the White House on the morning of 21 May were in for a disappointment. The Russian parliamentary sitting, which was to have given an assessment of the 1954 acts on transferring the Crimea to Ukraine, was declared a closed session. It was announced that the decision had been made late the previous evening.

All the journalists could do was hope that they would get news of the session at the press conference by Sergey Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, which was promised to be held after parliament had made its decision. Of course, no one disputes parliament's right to control its own activities. However, one cannot help noticing a trend: The matters of most concern to society tend increasingly to be discussed by Russian people's deputies in private.

An atmosphere of secrecy also surrounded the two-day Russian-Ukrainian talks in Moscow prior to the sitting. The Ukrainian parliamentary delegation headed by Vasiliy Durdinets, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, which came to the Russian capital, had conversations about its Russian colleagues' intentions to discuss the Crimean issue with the leaders of the Russian Supreme Soviet and the leaders of the deputies' factions. The Crimean issue was also touched on during B. Yeltsin's meeting with Ukrainian Prime Minister V. Fokin.

The scene at the start of the press conference, which was held on the evening of 20 May in the White House and was declared a joint press conference—both V. Durdinets and S. Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, were to attend—can probably be seen as the symbolic outcome of the meetings. The table at which the leaders of the two parliamnents were to sit bore two flags—Russian and Ukrainian. However, at the very last moment, after the journalists and the members of the Ukrainian delegation had taken their places, the Russian flag was suddenly removed. V. Durdinets conducted the press conference alone.

Since any negotiations presuppose mutual concessions, it was logical to expect that the Ukrainian representatives had come to Moscow with some constructive proposals. It can be deduced from what V Durdinets said that the delegation's sole aim was to bring Ukraine's position to the Russian deputies' attention. The position is a pretty tough one too. Ukraine regards the Russian parliament's intention to discuss the legality of the 1954 acts as gross interference in its internal affairs. The Ukrainian parliamentarians are not happy with R. Khasbulatov's explanations to the effect that, if the acts are deemed illegal, territorial claims on Ukraine will not ensue. According to V. Durdinets, such a decision would create a political and legal situation questioning the legality of Crimea's becoming part of Ukraine.

The Ukrainian parliament's first deputy chairman said that he ruled out the use of force as a means of resolving Russian-Ukrainian contradictions. However, one can deduce from his words that a decision by the Russian parliament, which Ukraine finds unsatisfactory, could jeopardize the implementation of Russian-Ukrainian political and economic treaties and agreements, both bilateral ones and those signed within the context of the CIS. According to media reports, Vitold Fokin adopted an equally tough stance during the meeting with the Russian president.

Black Sea Fleet Issue Cited

PM2505142592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 May 92 p 1

[Report by Captain Third Rank V. Yermolin and Captain V. Strugovets: "The Crimean Question Still Exists... Although the Ukrainian Side Considers It Unlawful for the Russian Parliament To Examine It"]

[Excerpts] On the morning of 21 May, some 50 rally participants gathered outside Russia's House of Soviets,

where the Russian parliament was embarking on the "Crimean question." The bulk of them were calling for attention to be paid to the tragic fate of South Ossetia. To be accurate, just five citizens devoted their posters to the parliamentary agenda: One proposed not spoiling relations with the fraternal people of Ukraine, while the other four urged deputies to "defend the Russian Crimea." [passage omitted]

The meeting between the Ukrainian delegation and journalists accredited to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Press Center, which was held in Moscow the previous day, passed off in quite a calm key. Vasiliy Durdinets, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, reminded us that the Crimea is a constituent part of Ukraine, and Ukraine regards any other state's examination of questions that cast doubt on the legality of the borders of its territory "as not only an unfriendly act but also an unlawful one." The Ukrainian deputies remained content with their contacts with their Russian colleagues.

We also inquired about the military aspect of the problem. Vasiliy Durdinets confirmed: "All armed forces stationed on the territory of Ukraine belong to it." With regard to the Black Sea Fleet, a moratorium on unilateral actions was adopted so as not to hinder the progress of the talks which have begun. The head of the Ukrainian delegation regarded as provocative the question put to Major General Valeriy Kuznetsov, chief of Simferopol Garrison, about the possibility of war between Ukraine and Russia at the time of his confirmation hearings in Kiev. Finally, about the "mysterious" change to the route of the aircraft in which Admiral Igor Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, was flying (the press carried a report that the commander had set out for Moscow but was "landed" in Kiev). The admiral flew to Kiev for a meeting with the republic's defense minister.

While the journalists were questioning members of the Ukrainian delegation about the future fate of the Crimea, on 20 May the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of the Crimea adopted a decision to agree with the Ukrainian parliament's resolution of 13 May this year with regard to suspending the act "On Proclaiming the State Independence of the Republic of the Crimea." For their part, the people of the Crimea proposed that the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet suspend the law "On the Status of the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea."

Despite an attempt by the Ukrainian parliamentary delegation to prove to colleagues that the Russian Supreme Soviet is not competent to examine the question of the Crimea, the session still submitted this question for examination, and the 21 May morning sitting began with a report by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Act of Independence 'Revoked'

MK2505153592 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 23 May 92 p 3

[Lidiya Malash report: "Crimea Trapped"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At a news conference given by V. Durdinets, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet and leader of the Ukrainian delegation at the talks with Russia, your KURANTY correspondent was not just interested in global, geopolitical questions. What has happened to Admiral Kasatonov? On that day, after all, the newspapers reported that the admiral was flying to Moscow, but for some reason the plane touched down at Kiev. Durdinets explained that Kasatonov had freely agreed to meet with the Ukrainian defense minister. To ensure that there were no journalists at the meeting he decided to "cover his tracks" in this bizarre way. This does not seem like Adm. Kasatonov. However, we are not going to doubt the word of the first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet.

...A few hours after the news conference news agencies reported that the Crimean Supreme Soviet session had revoked the act of independence. The parliament building has been surrounded by pickets unhappy with this decision.

Yeltsin Comments on Summit Accords

LD2605134192

[Editorial Report] Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 1237 GMT on 26 May carries a 250-word report datelined Moscow, 28 May, by ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Krasulin, on President Boris Yeltsin's departure for Altay and the Republic of Buryatia and his remarks on the 25 May statements by Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, as carried in the referent item.

Krasulin's report continues:

"President Yeltsin reported that agreement had been reached with Leonid Kravchuk, the Ukrainian president, yesterday to hold a meeting between the defense and foreign ministers of Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova to 'extinguish these moods' within the next two days. According to the president, the meeting would probably take place in Odessa. In this connection, Andrey Kozyrev, the Russian minister of foreign affairs, is urgently returning from his visit to the republics of Yugoslavia.

"Boris Yeltsin also reported that he had agreed with Leonid Kravchuk yesterday that after his return from his trip to Altay and Buryatia, approximately during the first 10 days of June, a bilateral summit meeting should be held between the presidents, chairmen of the supreme soviets and chairmen of governments. This meeting would probably take place in Dagomys, near Sochi. He expressed the hope that 'acute issues in relations between Russia and Ukraine will be dealt with.'"

The report ends citing Yeltsin on the reasons for his visit to Altay.

Yeltsin on Upcoming Moldovan, Ukrainian Talks

OW2605142492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 26 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin has rejected Moldovan President Mircea Snegur's accusations brought against Russia. "We have done nothing in Moldova to deserve such accusations," he told IF [INTERFAX] in a Moscow airport on Tuesday [26 May] before his departure to the Altay and Buryatia.

He said that earlier he had had a telephone conversation with the Ukrainian president during which they agreed to hold an urgent meeting of the Russian, Ukrainian and Moldovan defence and foreign ministers. The meeting is likely to take place in Odessa on May 27 or 28. In view of this Yeltsin has instructed Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to cut short his visit to Yugoslavia.

Yeltsin also said that the agreement had been reached to hold Russian-Ukrainian talks on the Black Sea coast of the Caucasus at the beginning of June, involving the two countries' presidents and heads of parliament and government.

"Kravchuk is aware that the crisis in Russian-Ukrainian relations cannot last for long," said Boris Yeltsin. "There are things related to the Black Sea Fleet and other spheres that arouses their concern," he continued. He also expressed hope that during the talks a number of acute problems will be solved.

Yeltsin said that Kravchuk's telephone call the previous evening was in response to the agreement with Kazakhstan. He also said he could feel that his Ukrainian counterpart was worried.

Speaking about his forthcoming visit to the Altay and Buryatia, he said that it was "one of his planned tours of the regions" which he had not visited yet. Boris Yeltsin said that it was vitally important to "correlate the implementation of the reform with what people think about it".

Romania Agrees to Peace Talks

LD2705090392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0841 GMT 27 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Dyakov]

[Text] Bucharest May 27 TASS—The Romanian side agreed to a proposal of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to hold a quadripartite meeting of heads of foreign policy agencies and ministers of national defence of Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and Romania in Kishinev on May 29 to discuss the situation in districts on the left bank of the Dniester. This is said in a statement of the Romanian Foreign Ministry circulated on Tuesday [26 May] by ROMPRES news agency.

The statement says that Romanian Foreign Minister and National Defence Minister Adrian Nastase and Nicolae Spiroiu will participate in the meeting.

Turkish Prime Minister Demirel Visits Moscow

Useful, Constructive Talks Expected

OW2505154392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1505 GMT 25 May 92

[From reports compiled by diplomatic correspondents I. Porshnev, V. Shishlin, and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP); transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian diplomacy believes that the main goal of the Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's visit to Moscow which begins today [25 May] is to maintain constructive, friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries in the political and economic area, Aleksandr Chichkanov [name as received], chief of the relevant department of Russia's Foreign Ministry, told DP's correspondent. He pointed to the importance of the treaty on the fundamentals of relations between Russia and Turkey that will be signed today (at about 18:00) following talks between President B. Yeltsin and Prime Minister S. Demirel.

In the course of the Turkish Prime Minister's two-day stay in Moscow Russia and Turkey are expected to discuss developments in Karabakh and in Trans-Caucasus as a whole. According to Russia's Ambassador to Turkey Albert Chernyshev interviewed by DP's correspondent, talks on these issues will proceed "constructively and on the basis of similar outlooks".

His belief is based on the official attitude of Turkey which stands for a peaceful solution to the Karabakh problem and for a resumption of the process of negotiations. According to Ankara, this should be preceded by a cease-fire agreement between the conflicting sides.

With reference to relations between Turkey and the Turkic-speaking CIS countries S. Demirel visited recently, A. Chernyshev said: the two sides "worked out a formula" under which Turkey recognized Russia's "extensive political, economic and other interests" in the countries in question; for its part Russia recognized the "naturalness and legitimacy" of Turkey's interest in those countries. Moreover, both sides realize that a clash between their interests is inadmissible, and that there is a need to harmonize them.

According to S. Demirel himself, said A. Chernyshev, in the course of his tour he sought to convince the leaders of formerly Soviet republics in Asia that it is necessary to maintain and consolidate their essential ties with Russia.

Medicines Arrive From Turkey

OW2505155192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1505 GMT 25 May 92

[From reports compiled by diplomatic correspondents I. Porshnev, V. Shishlin, and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP); transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On the eve of the Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's visit to Russia that begins today, two military transport planes from Turkey arrived in Moscow. They brought 29 tons of medicines, including blood transfusion equipment, cardiovascular remedies, antibiotics. Part of the cargo is destined for Russia's Health Ministry. It will be distributed among Moscow's hospitals and drugstores. The rest will be placed at the disposal of medical institutions belonging to the Moscow City Police Department.

According to an expert from Russia's Foreign Ministry in charge of relations with Turkey, the gesture of good will is designed to display Ankara's sincere interest in furthering relations with Moscow.

According to the diplomat, following the earthquake that hit Turkey recently Russia, despite its own difficulties, sent a large consignment of medicines there. "They say that a friend in need is a friend indeed. Besides, Russia and Turkey are neighbors, and this is what should determine the nature of their relationship", he stressed.

Arrives in Moscow

TA2505180992 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 25 May 92

[Bulent Gullapoglu Report from Moscow]

[Text] Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel was received by Yegor Gaydar, first deputy chairman of the government of the Russian Federation, at Moscow's Vnukovo airport today. The national anthems of the two countries were played at the airport ceremony, and Demirel inspected the honor guard. Demirel did not forget those who gave their lives for their country and placed a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Demirel is again in Moscow after 25 years. He visited the Soviet Union 25 years ago as the official guest of then Prime Minister Kosygin. Demirel's current host is Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation and the new boss at the Kremlin.

State Minister Cavit Caglar and Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin were also present at the Demirel-Yeltsin meeting. At the meeting, Yeltsin expressed his happiness over seeing Demirel in Moscow once more after 25 years. He also praised Demirel's contribution to Turkish-Soviet friendship and cooperation. Yeltsin expressed the desire to further develop relations and cooperation with Turkey.

Also speaking at the meeting, Demirel said that Turkey wants to live in peace and cooperation with its northern neighbor. He stressed that these relations will contribute to regional and world peace and benefit the peoples of the two countries. Demirel, Yeltsin, and the Turkish and Russian ministers met for close to an hour and were later joined by the Turkish and Russian delegations.

After the meeting between the two delegations, Demirel and Yeltsin signed the Turkish-Russian friendship and cooperation agreement.

After signing the agreement, Yeltsin said that this was a very significant day for the two countries. Describing the agreement as a very important political document, Yeltsin said: Polarization and ideological limitations that stem from the policy of blocs have been left behind. Yeltsin said that with this agreement, Turkey and Russia, as democratic communities adhering to human values, have undertaken various obligations. He further expressed satisfaction over the fact that this agreement coincides with the 500th anniversary of Turkish-Russian relations. Noting that Turkish-Russian relations have not always been easy and that they have, at times, been strained, Yeltsin praised Turkey's stand toward those who wish to create new areas of dispute and misunderstanding. Noting that this agreement has not been signed against a third country, Yeltsin expressed the hope that the agreement will be harmonious with the national interests of both countries and that it will develop bilateral relations.

Demirel said that the agreement will introduce a new perspective and dimension to Turkish-Russian relations. Noting that the agreement will contribute to the prosperity of the two countries, Demirel described it as a sign that the opportunities presented in this new age are put to good use. He added that conflicts are replaced by conciliation and disagreements by solidarity in the current era. Noting that the agreement will not only promote economic relations, Demirel added: We shall, in unity, stand against attitudes that lead to forceful bloodshed. Describing the agreement as one that is "for the benefit of all and not against anyone," Demirel added that the agreement to be signed at the end of the meeting to be held in Istanbul in June will ensure that the Black Sea becomes a sea of peace and stability. Demirel concluded by expressing the hope that the adherence of the two sides to the agreement will set an example to the world.

Demirel is currently attending a dinner in his honor hosted by Yeltsin at the Kremlin.

The foreign ministers of the two countries are working on a document that will jointly oppose Armenian aggression. A statement on the issue is expected to be issued tomorrow.

Meets With Yeltsin

OW2505194792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1909 GMT 25 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The conclusion of a treaty on the basics of relations between Russia and Turkey brooks no delay", the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin said in the Kremlin on Monday [25 May] before the beginning of talks with the Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel. The head of the Turkish Cabinet arrived in Moscow on a two-day visit.

Russian diplomats who made preparations for the visit and drafted the agenda for the talks have told IF [INTERFAX] that the main thrust of this comprehensive document and the current Russian-Turkish talks in general is the declaration of the good-neighbourly nature of relations between the two countries. The above-mentioned Russian-Turkish treaty, due to be signed at the end of the meeting between Yeltsin and Demirel covers all spheres of cooperation, including military-political questions.

For instance, the treaty says that the Russian Federation and Turkey regard each other as friendly states and build relations between each other on the basis of good-neighbourliness, cooperation and mutual trust. The sides pledge not to use force or threats of force in bilateral relations and to prevent its territory from being used for aggression, subversion or other separatist actions against each other.

The diplomats have told IF any complications at the negotiations tonight or tomorrow negotiations are unlikely. Russia hopes for a constructive discussion on all questions, including Nagorno-Karabakh and Nakhichevan. The officials noted the fact that the official positions of both countries are rather close: a cease-fire and the return of the warring factions to the negotiating table. The agenda of the talks includes the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Yeltsin and Demirel are meeting in the presence of select few. The Russian Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar is taking part.

Meets With Khasbulatov

LD2605134792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, today received Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, who is on an official visit to our country, in the Russian White House. Our correspondent Nikolay Artemyev reports.

[Artemyev] Opening the meeting, the parliamentary speaker stressed that Russia highly assesses the fact that of late, our bilateral relations with Turkey have become dynamic. A great deal of useful things has appeared in these relations, whether concerning cooperation in the economic sphere, in commerce, or in culture. We know, Ruslan Khasbulatov said, that over the past 20 years Turkey has become a fairly powerful country, and the Russian parliament is following a line of strengthening our cooperation, even in as delicate an area as unblocking conflicts. There have been all sorts of events in the history of our peoples, Khasbulatov said, but the memory of the people stores experience of good-neighborly relations.

In reply, Suleyman Demirel noted that a new phase has begun in relations between our two countries. He expressed satisfaction with regard to the talks held with President Yeltsin, and with the treaty which was signed, which will be a good basis for the development of bilateral relations. Together we will maintain the values which the whole civilized world holds.

Khasbulatov Comments

OW2605140192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 26 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament supports the president's efforts to broaden political, economic and cultural cooperation with friendly Turkey, Chairman of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov said on Tuesday [26 May] during his talks with Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel. The Turkish premier said he was satisfied with the results of his talks with President Yeltsin and with members of the Russian government, and remarked that Russian-Turkish relations are entering a new stage.

Joint Relations Protocol Signed

LD2605165692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1602 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Moscow, 26 May (ITAR-TASS)—The treaty on Russo-Turkish relations signed in Moscow consolidates the new quality of relations between the two countries, a report for the press issued here today emphasizes. The Turkish prime minister has been on an official visit to Moscow.

The report notes that the Moscow talks were held in an atmosphere of goodwill and mutual understanding and that the sides expressed satisfaction at the state of Russo-Turkish relations in the political, economic, and other spheres.

Special emphasis was laid on the great potential for a substantial increase in trade turnover between Russia and Turkey and the joint implementation of new, large-scale economic projects, including projects linked with creating a Black Sea region of economic cooperation.

During a discussion of questions concerning Russia's and Turkey's relations with the CIS states, especially the Central Asian states, the sides stated their mutual desire

to act as partners and to contribute to the economic and social development of Commonwealth countries.

The sides expressed profound regret over the Nagorno-Karabakh situation.

Meets With Gaydar

OW2605110892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1000 GMT 26 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During his second day in Moscow the Turkish Prime-Minister Suleyman Demirel is discussing mostly economic cooperation with Russia. In the morning he held talks with members of the Russian cabinet. In the absence of President Yeltsin who is touring Altay region the Russian side was headed by Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar. The delegation included the Economy Minister Andrey Nechayev and the Minister of Finance Vasily Barchuk.

According to reliable diplomatic sources, additional Turkish credits worth $300 mn [million] were expected to be discussed.

Turkey has earmarked $1,150 mn for Russia (the total of credits promised by Mr. Demirel to Central Asian countries and Kazakhstan during his tour of the CIS is $600 mn). The investment part of the credits to Russia will be spent on the construction of social facilities, baby food factories and sugar plants. At the Kremlin talks the two sides also planned to discuss the prospects of increasing bilateral trade to $10-12 bn [billion] by the end of the decade, the present volume of annual trade is $3 bn.

Comments on Gaydar Talks

LD2605184792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1732 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Postanogov and Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel is satisfied with the results of his visit to Moscow and is sure that Russian-Turkish relationships will be gaining in strength and developing.

Addressing a press conference in the Russian Foreign Ministry press centre today, Demirel said a treaty on the basic principles of relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Turkey and also a large number of protocols of intent in a variety of areas were signed during his visit. Demirel pointed out that new horizons were being opened in Turkish-Russian relationships.

Demirel said that at his meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar today they agreed to boost trade turnover between the two countries from two to ten billion dollars.

Demirel said Russia and Turkey adopted a joint statement on Nagorno-Karabakh denouncing "the escalation of violence and urging most decisively the parties involved in the conflict to ensure an effective cease-fire and take the necessary steps towards easing confrontation." Russia and Turkey expressed their readiness to give all possible assistance to end further bloodshed and search for a political solution to the conflict. Demirel emphasised that Turkey did not intend to resolve the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh by military means but sought to settle this problem through talks. He denied rumours about the concentration of Turkish troops on the border with Armenia.

Demirel said a document on the two countries' cooperation in the Black Sea economic area was initialled and Russian President Boris Yeltsin would sign it at a meeting of the parties concerned in Turkey on June 25.

Demirel expressed satisfaction with progress in reforms in the Russian Federation and stated that Turkey supports these transformations. He also emphasised that "all countries of the world should extend a helping hand to the Commonwealth states in enacting reforms."

Demirel stated that Turkey aspired to forge coooperation with the Commonwealth's Turkic speaking peoples, noting that this process should not be the cause of concern with other states. "If the newly-founded states are able to get firmly on their feet, the whole world will benefit from this," Demirel said.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1741 GMT on 26 May adds in a Moscow-datelined report: "Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel expressed serious concern about the escalation of the conflict in Yugoslavia and called for more active efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

["Yeltsin and Demirel also signed an agreement on fundamentals of relations between Russia and Turkey.

["Demirel was in Moscow between May 25 and 26."]

Nagorno-Karabakh Talks Moved Up

LD2605084192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] The prime minister of Turkey, Suleyman Demirel, has told a news conference in Moscow that new talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan on Nagorno-Karabakh, originally scheduled for the end of next month, are due to be held on Thursday [28 May]. A delegation of Nagorno-Karabakh will attend the talks but will not participate directly.

The Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, and the Turkish prime minister have agreed on setting up a hot line between the capitals of their states to maintain permanent contact.

Mr. Suleyman Demirel, who is in Moscow on an official visit, has signed a treaty on the principles of bilateral relations with Russia.

Polish President's Visit to Moscow Continues

Comments on Future Relations

PM2205170192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 May 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Interview with President Lech Walesa of the Republic of Poland by correspondent Konstantin Eggert; in Moscow 22 May: "Lech Walesa: 'Our Ideal Is Soundness of Policy'"—first paragraph is IZVESTIYA introduction]

[Text] On 22 May, Lech Walesa received your correspondent in his Kremlin residence after a brief mass celebrated for him and his immediate entourage by a Catholic priest. The clock showed 0730. L. Walesa claims to begin every day in this way. "I serve my country and derive spiritual strength from prayer," he said. Today the Polish head of state sees it as his duty to Poland to open a new page in the history of relations with Russia.

[Eggert] Mr. President, are the Poles ready to accept your appeal to take a new look at Russia, without prejudice?

[Walesa] It is impossible to settle accounts with the past in full—what has been has been. The experience of my generation or, let us say, my father's generation is burdened with grave examples from our common history. My children no longer know prejudice, however. We must start building the future for them.

I admit: Even the documents that I have to sign in Moscow still, unfortunately, partly bear the imprint of the old epoch and do not fully accord with the demands of the new politics—politics full of clarity and devoid of innuendos.

Yet I am convinced that Russian-Polish cooperation, founded on mutual interests and trust, will be capable of serving as a model for other peoples.

[Eggert] Does the presence of former Soviet troops in Poland complicate its relations with Moscow, and what, in your view, are the prospects for resolving this question?

[Walesa] Take the example of Hungary or Czechoslovakia: There are no longer any troops there, but relations with Russia leave something to be desired. What is the matter? Obviously, everything depends on the approach to the problem: One side must be ready to withdraw its troops unconditionally; otherwise it is pointless to speak of honest relations, but neither must the other side seek to throw anyone out on his neck. We strive for sincere and sound policy. I believe that here I will succeed in finding mutual understanding with President Yeltsin.

[Eggert] There is a lot of argument in Russia over the role of strong government in implementing reforms. What can you say about this?

[Walesa] Concepts get muddled both in your country and in ours: It is one thing to discuss and choose the path of transformations. Maximum democracy is needed here. The realization of decisions is another matter. They must be fulfilled strictly, even rigidly. When that is done, people accuse me or President Yeltsin of dictatorial ways, whereas we are simply demanding elementary efficiency.

[Eggert] What have 18 months in the presidency of the Republic of Poland taught you? Have you changed?

[Walesa] Of course. A person changes every day, with each new meeting, with each new impression. Today I am in Moscow. If someone had told me 15 years ago that I would be a guest in the Kremlin, I would have called that person mad. However, as it turns out, everything is possible in life. You simply have to believe in it and build your future yourself.

'Difficult Moments' Overcome

LD2205131192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1248 GMT 22 May 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Postanogov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow May 22 TASS—Despite several "difficult moments" at today's talks between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his Polish counterpart Lech Walesa, both leaders succeeded in overcoming natural difficulties and embarked on a "path of creation," Yeltsin's spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov told ITAR-TASS.

Yeltsin described the meeting as talks "between two tough guys," who know how to defend the interests of their nations and who have realized that they have to go hand in hand towards building new relations between Russia and Poland, Kostikov said.

Yeltsin and Walesa first met during the burial of academician Andrey Sakharov and have ever since build their relations "in a manly style," he said.

In addition to a treaty on friendly and goodneighbourly relations the sides signed 10 concrete documents, including on withdrawing Russian troops from Poland, he said. The presidents passed a joint statement, denouncing former totalitarian regimes in their countries.

Speaking about agreements that have been reached, Kostikov stressed that they can be called a "breakthrough" in relations between the two states.

"The talks' results and the signing of documents introduce Russia and Poland to a new historic space," he said,

pointing to the need to develop the space quickly, especially in the economic sphere.

Both sides wish to upgrade their relations to a level, characteristic of democratic states, Kostikov said.

Views 'New Stage' in Relations

LD2205185892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1432 GMT 22 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Postanogov and Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow, 22 May—"We are opening a new stage in relations between Russia and Poland, and I am confident that we shall fill with achievement and contentment all the blank pages of our new history," Lech Walesa, president of the Republic of Poland, said at a news conference here today. He is in Moscow on an official visit.

Answering a question from journalists about the Russian-Polish talks held today, Lech Walesa noted that the "toughness" of the talks concerned only the issues of the past; as for the future, "there are no problems on which we will not be able to reach agreement."

Lech Walesa asserted that, as he sees it, Russia and Poland could provide the basis for the development of the post-communist states of Europe, but this will depend upon the progress of cooperation between the two powers.

The Polish president said that he had a meeting scheduled today with former USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev. Walesa described Gorbachev as "a great player" and a remarkable man of affairs who has done, and is doing, a great deal for the renewal of his country.

Asked whether Polish observers might be sent to Nagorno-Karabakh, the Polish president said that his state is willing to take part in all initiatives concerning the settlement of conflicts.

Today sees the end of the official part of the Polish president's visit to Moscow. Tomorrow morning he flies to Smolensk, where he will visit the graves of Polish officers who were victims of Stalin's repressions.

Favors Warsaw-Moscow Axis

OW2205173092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 22 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Polish President Lech Walesa would want a Warsaw-Moscow axis to shape the political lineup in Eastern Europe. Addressing newsmen in Moscow, the Polish President said his country and Russia had a chance to lead post-Communist Europe. However, he stressed the realization of his idea would depend primarily on how well the two countries were going to fulfill their commitments under international law.

Lech Walesa was convinced Russia could not help following the road of civilization, for, had it opted for a different future, it would be sure to face international isolation.

He said Polish-Ukrainian relations started recently from scratch. He would want new Polish-Russian relations to begin after the same fashion, but the efforts to achieve this were only partly successful.

A reporter for INTERFAX asked how the Polish President felt about Ukraine's intention to join the Polish-Hungarian-Czechoslovak alliance in Eastern Europe. His personal experience taught him, Walesa said, a chair with four legs presented a more solid construction than a chair with three legs.

40,000 Troops To Leave Poland

LD2305083692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 23 May 92

[Excerpts] Polish President Lech Walesa is completing his visit to Russia. [passage omitted] One of the agreements signed envisages the withdrawal of 40,000 former Soviet troops from Poland before 15 November. A smaller group of troops will stay for two years to coordinate the withdrawal of troops from Germany. Speaking at a press conference, Lech Walesa said relations between Russia and Poland are entering a new stage.

Further on News Conference

PM2605100392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 May 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Gennadiy Charodeyev report: "'Discussion Between Two Blunt Men' Was How Boris Yeltsin Described Nature of Talks in Kremlin With President of Poland"]

[Text] The one-on-one talks between the leaders did indeed apparently have "a few sticky moments." However, at a news conference arranged for Russian and foreign journalists, Polish President Lech Walesa stated that prospects and opportunities for very broad cooperation are now finally opening up before the two countries. "Independent Poland and democratic Russia have great interests in common and will be able to do much together for the general benefit and development of modern Europe."

According to the Polish president, the tough talks in Moscow are mainly related to the events of past decades. However, it is necessary to look to the future, Walesa said. What we will be like in the future is more important for us, he said, not the problems on which Poland would be unable to reach agreement with Russia today.

Walesa reported that a historic event had occurred between the two countries—the presidents had signed a treaty on friendly and good-neighborly cooperation. Apart from the planned documents, a joint statement was also signed which condemns the former communist

totalitarian regimes in Poland and Russia. (As already reported in IZVESTIYA, demands to include condemnation of Stalinism in the preamble to the treaty were put forward in Warsaw during the concluding phase of preparation of the treaty).

A treaty on the withdrawal of CIS troops from the territory of Poland was signed during the talks. A further 10 agreements defining collaboration and cooperation between Poland and Russia at the present stage were signed during the talks.

In addition to meetings with Russian Vice President Rutskoy and Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov, the Polish president met with Mikhail Gorbachev. Answering a question from your IZVESTIYA correspondent, Walesa said that he personally had always wanted to meet this world-renowned politician. "I once said that he is a great player who conducts affairs splendidly and has done a very great deal for universal changes. With my hand on my heart I would ask: And who today would be against making the acquaintance of Gorbachev and his wife?"—Walesa remarked.

In conclusion, the Polish leader stressed that his visit to Russia was timely, although a pretty large number of problems do remain in relations between the two countries. However, both Moscow and Warsaw intend to solve them more quickly.

"When I said once that you should not expect alms from the West, I did not mean at all that they will not help us in case of need. However, we and we alone will be able to meet all our needs. Cooperation and production sharing are our trump cards. Poland and Russia should get back into the world's bloodstream."

Yeltsin Hosts Dinner

LD2205194992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1904 GMT 22 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Runov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow May 22 TASS—"Powerful democratic processes in Poland helped our citizens in August, 1991, pass the maturity exam—protect the new Russia," Russian President Boris Yeltsin said in his today's speech at dinner in honor of Polish President Lech Walesa.

"Now that we are making most painful and difficult economic reforms, your experience helps us see more clearly the light in the end of the tunnel and gives us more strength and assurance.

"Our wish is inflexible: We intend to consistently and purposefully carry out the course towards deepening the reforms and consolidation of our relations with the Commonwealth member-states," said the president.

Speaking of the Russian-Polish relations, Boris Yeltsin expressed the assurance "Poland and Russia can establish relations worthy of a person belonging to the late 20th century civilization, worthy of our peoples".

The most important condition for it is the restoration of complete historical truth about relations between the two states in the past. Much has been done due to common efforts.

Culprits of crimes against Poles who died in Katyn and other places of sorrow, where Polish officers are now commemorated, have been named. It has been decided to pass over to Poland documents of the Modern History Institute named after Joseph Pilsudskiy and other materials kept in Russian archives.

The Russian president stressed the special importance to "solve an uneasy question on the Russian troops withdrawal from Polish territory. The achieved compromise equally corresponds to the interests of both peoples".

"Our approaches to major international issues are close or coincide. They are based on concern about universal peace and development of cooperation with all democratic states," said Yeltsin.

Polish President Lech Walesa said in his turn he pins great hopes on his Russian visit. He noted they are entering a new phase of bilateral relations after a package of agreements has been signed.

Poland and Russia have always had special relations determined by the fact they are close neighbours and have a common thousand-years-long history, which includes lots of sorrowful pages, said Walesa.

This is a heavy burden we are carrying. If the two states want to understand each other, they cannot keep silent about these painful moments. They must be made public. One cannot evade the truth, it can also be an impulse for understanding. There is such a change now, noted the Polish president.

The situation in mutual relations will change with the signing of the treaty and the Russian troops withdrawal from Poland. Freedom of movement and development of tourism do lots of good to mutual understanding. The image of Russia and Poland has changed in the two people's eyes. Stereotypes are passing by, changes in the outlook become more evident. Daily contacts give birth to friendship and actual closeness. Poland and Russia deserve it, said Walesa.

Poland and Poles are attentively watching changes underway in Russia. They admire their scale and boldness, noted he.

Addressing Boris Yeltsin, Walesa said they admire the president, his firmness and consistency in striving to turn Russia into a democratic and stable state. They admire the Russian people, who has become sovereign and regained its dignity. The people was able to muster sufficient strength to get rid of totalitarianism.

Poland and Russia have long-standing economic relations, said Walesa, calling to restore them on new principles beneficial for both sides.

He said the two countries are simultaneously making reforms, progressing towards Europe and learning democracy. They can do a lot together.

Interviewed on Ties

LD2205221192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 22 May 92

[Interview with Polish President Lech Walesa by unidentified reporter in Moscow on 22 May—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] We welcome you to Moscow, Mr. President. The first question is this: How do you regard the past and future of Russo-Polish relations?

[Walesa] I will keep my answer as brief as possible. Our past was very complex. It cannot be viewed unequivocally. Although one does have to return to the past, the most important thing is to build the future, and I have come here with the precise intention of doing that. When they are together, our peoples have huge potential. They are capable of proving to other peoples that our cooperation, when based on honest principles, can benefit not only ourselves but also other peoples.

[Reporter] As you know, Russo-Ukrainian relations are quite complex at the moment. Historically, Poland has often played a role of one kind or another in these relations. What about now?

[Walesa] If we succeed in striking up—and most important of all, implementing—an honest relationship with Russia, the interests of other countries will be borne in mind as our cooperation materializes. However, everything depends on whether we finally succeed in having good relations with Russia.

[Reporter] Mr. president, you have eight children. What is your children's attitude toward Russia?

[Walesa] Actually they are my wife's children, I am only my wife's husband! Joking apart, children are not burdened with the legacy of the past. That is something which is borne by my generation and, no doubt, by the previous one. Those generations are responsible for more examples of bad relations between us. This generation does not have this heavy burden to bear. Therefore, it must be given a chance to make a good beginning.

[Reporter] What is the position of the government now, given Poland's present economic situation?

[Walesa] On one occasion I said that our reforms were so difficult that the government could be compared with the bumper of a fairground dodgem car. It gets hit so many times during a ride. So it is in reality. We are changing our third government—changing our third bumper. Nobody can withstand such punishment. Circumstances are so changeable that it is very difficult for the driver who starts to continue till the finish. Circumstances change so much that different people are needed. The key factor is not the change of government but rather its ability to implement the tasks which it has been set, the ways in which these tasks are implemented, and the people who operate best in a given situation. Poland is already emerging onto the straight. We already have a new system in operation, but we still have a huge amount of very difficult work ahead of us.

[Reporter] It is now 0740. When does the president normally begin his working day?

[Walesa] I always try to begin my day by saying mass, in order to gather up concentration and moral strength, and then to set about resolving the problems facing me. It is a bit harder here in Moscow. Your time zone is two hours ahead of Poland. I haven't woken up properly yet.

[Reporter] What would you like to say to the 150 million viewers who will be seeing you this evening?

[Walesa] I would like to say the following. I know how hard things are for you, but there is no choice, neither for you nor for us. The question facing both you and us is: Can we can stick it out, and at what price? How long will it take us to do what has to be done? How long will it take you to do what your government, headed by Yeltsin, is proposing? You have no choice. The only question is the time it takes and the price it requires. These proposals are the only possible ones. Others have no justification. Your wonderful republic, and Poland too, must become part of the organized world. This has certain parameters. We cannot do things differently. Therefore, we must grit our teeth and persist with the implementation of these objectives, relying on freedom, pluralism, brotherhood, and openness. The only things you should debate are the price and the timeframe, in other words, the ways in which these goals should be achieved and the pace which should be set. The faster you do it, the better and richer will be your life.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr. President, for the time which you have set aside for Russian television and for our viewers.

Arrives in Smolensk

LD2305140692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1232 GMT 23 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Runov and Yuriy Sidorov]

[Text] Katyn (Smolensk Oblast) 23 May—Polish President Lech Walesa, who is on an official visit to Russia, today visited the site of the tragic death of Polish officers who were shot in 1940 by the NKVD [Soviet secret police] in Katyn forest near Smolensk.

The sorrowful ceremony opened with a Catholic service. The president laid a wreath at the officers' communal

burial site to the sound of funereal music and genuflected at the improvised altar in prayer for the innocent Poles who had been killed.

"The Polish officers were not allowed to die the death of a soldier," Lech Walesa said in his speech. "The Russians have done a great deal to preserve the bitter truth which has now become our hope. The blood of those who died in the Katyn forest was not spilled in vain."

In a speech in reply, Boris Reva, deputy head of the Smolensk Oblast administration, said that the Smolensk chekists and the public were continuing to investigate the Katyn tragedy and had handed over a file of documents which open up new pages of the tragedy.

On the same day Lech Walesa left for St. Petersburg.

Arrives in St. Petersburg

LD2405094292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1645 GMT 23 May 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kondratenko]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 23 May—Polish President Lech Walesa made a stopover in St. Petersburg for several hours on his way home today [23 May]. He arrived here from Smolensk, where he visited the site of the tragic death of the Polish officers shot in the Katyn forest, close to the town, by the NKVD in 1940.

The president and those accompanying him were met at the airport—where the state flags of the Republic of Poland and the Russian Federation were raised— by Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak and other officials.

The guest placed a wreath at the foot of the monument to the defenders of Leningrad during the Second World War.

Afterwards, Lech Walesa visited the St. Yekaterina Church, which was recently handed over to its parishioners on the instructions of the mayor. Stanislaw August Poniatowski, the last Polish king, was buried there until the Second World War. His ashes were transferred to his home estate, Volchino, in 1939.

The president was welcomed at Mariinskiy Palace by Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak. No journalists were present at their meeting. However, it is quite evident—and this was noted by Zdzislaw Nowicki, the general consul of the Republic of Poland in St. Petersburg—that bilateral cooperation was discussed, since the accords reached during the course of the visit open up favorable opportunities for a qualitatively new level of interrelations between Russia and Poland, especiallly in the economic sphere. As far as St. Petersburg is concerned, the general consul noted, his country is very much counting on the development of links between this city and Gdansk. They have cooperated successfully as twinned towns in the recent past.

The Polish president left for home in the evening.

Rutskoy Criticizes Polish Agreement

LD2505200292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1236 GMT 25 May 92

[From the "politics" section]

[Text] Moscow—Russian Federation Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy criticized the Russian-Polish cooperation agreement recently signed in Moscow.

According to Rutskoy, who is in the Rostov region from May 23, all the Russian Army's property in Poland have been completely transferred to the property of the Polish authorities which is absolutely inadmissible. Rutskoy stressed that interests of the Russian Army and the state were sacrificed to the big policy for the sake of strengthening relations between the two countries.

Federation Affairs

Rutskoy Seeks Cure for Information 'Starvation'

PM2705100792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 May 92 First Edition p 1

[Report by Nikolay Ignatov: "The Vice President on Starvation Information Rations]

[Text] An ordinance of the vice president of the Russian Federation has established "the obligation to present to the vice president of the Russian Federation for agreement and initialing drafts of decrees and ordinances of the president of the Russian Federation and Russian Federation Government resolutions and ordinances which are being prepared in the areas of the activity of organs of state power and economic structures envisaged in Decree No. 193 of the president of the Russian Federation dated 26 February 1992 'On the Duties and Powers of the Vice President of the Russian Federation.'"

Incidentally, this ordinance sheds further light on intra-apparatus relationships in the Russian president's entourage. Evidently the struggle for influence over the president between strictly presidential structures and government structures has assumed different forms, but has not abated. The cited ordinance of the vice president serves as indirect evidence, it makes it clear that the second person in Russian executive power learns of the decisions of the president and the government from the newspapers.

Rutskoy Criticizes Government's Fiscal Policies

OW2605112492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1000 GMT 26 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At his Monday [25 May] meeting with miners and administration representatives in Rostov-on-the-Don

Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy announced that the deficit of cash in Russia has run to 70 bn roubles. The decision to raise fuel and energy prices, he said, will further deepen the shortage.

The vice-president accounted the situation to the absence of basic fiscal discipline of the Central Bank of Russia the head of which Georgiy Matyukhin "has frozen the fiscal policy and undermined the financial system of Russia by raising credit rates to 50%".

Today national property is being actively embezzled because the current economic policy promotes speculation.

The vice-president complained that even though the cabinet signs five to six decrees daily it blocks a decree on the further expansion of the land and farming reform.

At a cabinet meeting today Aleksandr Rutskoy intends to make another attempt to prove the necessity of drafting an appropriate decree. Despite all its negative aspects, he said, the recent Congress of People's Deputies at least somewhat sobered down the government. "I favor the market, but there should be a system in the transition to it", he said.

At a meeting with the leadership of the North Caucasian military district and representatives of the defence industry the vice-president stressed the necessity of strengthening Russia's defences on its southern flank. According to Rutskoy's aide Andrey Fedorov, the deployment of units withdrawn from Germany and other places was discussed in order to build appropriate defence systems in the south of the country.

Rutskoy Reviews Rostov Trip, Agriculture Plans

OW2605223792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2059 GMT 26 May 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "I think my trip to Rostov Oblast was very useful and fruitful," Russian Vice-President told our correspondent Marina Chernukha on his return to Moscow last night. In his opinion, no government programs or decrees will be of any use before the ordinary individual clearly sees what specifically they will change in his life. If he then supports them, they will work. Rutskoy also said that, for the period of over two months which had passed after he had been given his new powers by Yeltsin's decree, he had been making studies and doing necessary calculations jointly with agricultural experts.

Now he thinks he should go over to practical work, which he started by going to Rostov Oblast. On May 29 he and some executives from the Carroll Group of Great Britain will be flying to Kursk Oblast to make arrangements for the organization of a large corporation for the growing and processing of sugar beet operating in 15 districts. After that he is going to Stavropol Territory, in whose agriculture Egyptian businessmen are planning to invest $250 mln. [million].

Rutskoy regretted that the government was unwilling to cooperate with him in agricultural matters. "The government has issued eighteen decrees and directives since Yeltsin signed his decree giving me my new appointment," he said, "but nobody asked for my consent to any of them." Six weeks ago Yeltsin instructed the government to prepare a decree on measures to further the agrarian and agro-industrial reforms but it has still not been done. Rutskoy said he was going to bring up the matter at the next government meeting. He had, however, foreseen resistance to the decree.

Rutskoy also mentioned his proposal that 20% of the foreign credit, 20% of the profit from the export of weapons, and 15% of the profit from the export of raw materials be channeled into agricultural programs. Apart from this, he believes all government structures handling the agrarian and agro-industrial reforms should form a single unit because the reforms can hardly be carried out without their close interaction.

Burbulis Denies Yeltsin Pressured Court Judges

OW2605234792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2141 GMT 26 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a news conference in Moscow on Tuesday [26 May], RF [Russian Federation] President's Secretary of State Gennadiy Burbulis dismissed as not corresponding to reality claims by members of the Parliamentary faction "Communists of Russia" that on the eve of the Constitutional Court's session, Boris Yeltsin had allegedly met judges to exert pressure on them. These allegations were made by plaintiffs at the end of the court hearing on May 26th. The Court examined a petition from a group of people's deputies, who questioned the constitutionaliy of Mr. Yeltsin's decrees to dissolve the CPSU and the RF CP [Communist Party] and confiscate their property. It also considered an appeal from the Constitutional Commission's Secretary Oleg Rumyantsev to the Constitutional Court to declare the CPSU and Russia's Communist Party anticonstitutional bodies. As a result, the Constitutional Court decided to postpone hearings on both solicitations to July 7th.

In regard to the Court's decision to invite the former CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev to the July 7th session, Mr. Burbulis expressed his personal view that Mr. Gorbachev "will abstain from it".

The Russian President's envoy at the trial in the Constitutional Court, the lawmaker Sergey Shahray, who took part in the news conference, declared that it seemed to him "unlikely" that concrete people would be held legally responsible in accordance with a Constitutional Court verdict"

Burbulis Airs Political Issues With Deputies

MK2205095192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 May 92 p 2

[Sergey Parkhomenko article under the "Power" rubric: "Burbulis Raids Behind Khasbulatov's Lines and Seeks Sympathizers in the Citadels of Parliament"]

[Text] It was quite strange to discover Gennadiy Burbulis in the White House—right outside his own office—last Tuesday [19 May]. The Russian President's state secretary appeared deep behind his political opponent's lines for a meeting behind closed doors with a group of leaders of the democratic faction.

The ever-intensifying conflict with the supreme legislative authority has made leaders of the Russian administration gradually abandon the road to the residence of the republic's president on Krasnopresnenskaya Embankment. At any rate, all the recent meetings between President Yeltsin and leaders of the Supreme Soviet and deputies' representatives have taken place in the Kremlin. Another tradition that is now a thing of the past is that of the well known "Tuesdays with Burbulis," when parliamentary correspondents would invariably gather a rich crop of forthright declarations and highly portentous statements from influential members of Yeltsin's team who would regularly appear for meetings with the deputies concerned. One after another the spacious offices in the former government wing of the White House have at last acquired new occupants and now it is only in the most remote and almost deserted corridors of the former "presidential block" that you can suddenly chance upon an obvious anachronism—a dusty nameplate bearing the name of Starovoytova or Stankevich.

On this occasion the main theme of the conversation with Burbulis, according to those who took part in the meeting, was prospects for the 26 May hearings in the republic's Constitutional Court in the case of the president's decrees on the CPSU's activity and the fate of its property. Burbulis analyzed in detail the composition of the expert groups serving as "plaintiffs" and "respondents." He confirmed that the president's interests in the hearing will most probably be represented by Sergey Shakhray—the actual author of the legal documents which are the subject of the investigation. Deputies refused—for quite understandable reasons, furthermore—to give details regarding the tactics which the Shakhray-led "defense" intends to use.

In the conversation with journalists even Burbulis confined himself solely to generalized statements on this theme. "We are preparing for the Constitutional Court session very seriously," he said, answering your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent's question, "and are confident that the decrees were both timely and lawful." At the same time, Burbulis noted, the very fact of the court hearing may be grounds for resuming the struggle over the "most important historical problem: that of the CPSU's responsibility for the regime which established itself for decades in our country and had a distorting influence on the whole world community."

Let us note that these highly disturbing words make you think that the hearings to determine whether the president's decrees accord with the present constitution could automatically develop into a trial of the Communist Party itself. And the team of "president's lawyers" is scarcely going to be particularly averse to such a development of events. Quite the reverse.

The state secretary was somewhat more precise when talking about the referendum, which, by all accounts, is steadily moving from the realms of an abstract political threat by the Kremlin against the White House and is presenting its initiators with problems which are purely practical and organizational. "A week ago I answered a question on the timing of referendum, saying that it will take place no earlier than September but no later than October," Burbulis remarked. "But now I think that this will largely depend on how the year turns out in agriculture, how successfully we manage to 'boost' industry, and how the political process develops within the CIS...."

The "land question, which was decided by all society long ago," was cited yet again as one which could be submitted to a nationwide vote. But in the sphere of Russia's state organization, according to Burbulis, the wording of the referendum could be toned down somewhat, with the demand for constitutional reform and the affirmation of the main principles of the new basic law replaced merely by a proposal to "bring forward the date of the next elections of representative organs of power," for example by reducing the term from five years to four.

Here Gennadiy Burbulis was not at all inclined to understate the significance of the constitutional problem as a whole. "Russia will be able to accomplish the transformations—in the long term, over several generations—only if it has a normal presidential authority. The bogus debate on the theme of the 'parliamentary republic versus the presidential republic' is losing its point now," he asserted.

The range of deputies participating in these not widely publicized consultations with State Secretary Burbulis was not picked at random. It contained many of the most influential parliamentarians among those who recently announced the creation of the "Reform" group. Here we found Vladimir Lysenko, Sergey Krasavchenko, Viktor Sheynis, and Sergey Yushenkov...They actually organized that same Tuesday morning a deputies' conference on the theme "The Crisis of Parliamentarism in Russia."

That the name chosen is not at all farfetched is confirmed, for example, by the ridiculously small number of deputies wanting to take part in the discussion of what seemed like highly significant problems. It must be said that there were almost three times as many journalists in the hall as parliamentarians. Furthermore, the few speeches that were made should be regarded as programmatic.

Boris Strashun, expert of the Russian Constitutional Commission and Constitutional Court, probably set out the position of the organizers of the hearings most succinctly. "I am sure that a significant redistribution of powers between the Congress of People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviet in favor of parliament is necessary."

Viktor Sheynis, the author of the most detailed report, thoroughly analyzed the whole range of options which could be offered as solutions to this problem, ranging from the immediate compulsory dissolution of the Congress as a result of the referendum to the voluntary conclusion by all deputies of a gentlemen's agreement not to overload the agenda with political discussions and not to convene a large legislative assembly more than once a year. In addition to frankly idealistic plans like that one, there were also more realistic proposals. For example, to increase the Supreme Soviet in permanent session to 500-700 deputies by increasing the representation of individual territories and—at the same time—setting definite quotas on the existing parliamentary factions and Supreme Soviet committees and commissions.

The view expressed by Marina Salye, leader of the Free Democratic Party of Russia, sounded far more radical: "Society is turning away not from the Congress but from authority in general. Both from the president and from the government, including..." Declaring that she was speaking on behalf of "Democratic Russia," Salye was also sharply critical of moderate, peaceable projects for "intraparliamentary" reform and the plans connected with the referendum on the dissolution of Congress, the answer to which, in her opinion, would inevitably be another plebiscite—on confidence in the president. "'Democratic Russia' continues to favor the idea of convening a Constituent Assembly," Marina Salye said, explaining that this organ should in no way lay claim to a long mandate to rule the country but would be obliged to surrender its powers immediately after the new constitution had been adopted and parliamentary elections scheduled in accordance with the new procedure (based on party lists).

The prospects which the supporters of that path outline seem, of course, somewhat exotic and thus alluring. But their optimism is somehow infectious. However, it must be admitted that even at this initial stage the steps taken by the Yeltsin administration seem at least more substantial and professional that the democratic opposition's completely uncoordinated actions. The idea of a referendum will hardly find many supporters inside the White House. But the president's team is methodically gathering its forces into a single unit and is not going to ignore any support from deputies, no matter how slight. In an emergency that support could form a fifth column in the Ruslan Khasbulatov camp.

Background of Deputy Premier Khizha Viewed

LD2205211292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 22 May 92

[Report by correspondent Andrey Krasnov]

[Text] The president of Russia has issued a decree appointing Georgiy Stepanovich Khizha as deputy prime minister of the Government. His job will be to handle problems connected with industrial development. Andrey Krasnov comments on this appointment.

[Krasnov] The emergence of Georgiy Khizha on Russia's political Mt. Olympus was a complete surprise. Until now he has occupied a fairly minor post as deputy mayor of St. Petersburg. In spite of his strange sounding surname, Georgiy Stepanovich is a Russian, although he was born in Ashkhabad. In 1961 he graduated as a mechanical engineer from the Leningrad Polytechnic Institute. Subsequently he worked in the military-industrial complex. However, he managed to combine this successfully with a scientific career.

Georgiy Khizha is now a Doctor of Technical Science and a professor. He is married with two daughters. According to his press secretary, Mikhail Iskrov, Khizha reacts well to leg-pulling and has an excellent understanding of human psychology. He has fast reactions and a huge sense of purpose. According to some reports, Georgiy Khizha maintains close links with Anatoliy Sobchak.

As far as politics are concerned, he is a fairly contradictory figure. On the one hand, Khizha is regarded as a pillar of Russia's military-industrial complex. In St. Petersburg he was, among other things, chairman of the Association of Industrial Enterprises, a key post in this respect. At the same time, he also knows how to get on with the St. Petersburg soviet, a body which you could never accuse of being sympathetic toward the military-industrial complex.

Nevertheless, Georgiy Khizha has remained a dark horse to Moscow politicians. Herein lies his strength, it transpires. As you know, the post of deputy prime minister for industry has long been an apple of discord between the economic lobby and Yegor Gaydar's cabinet. At the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies the opposition demanded that Boris Yeltsin move swiftly to appoint a robust industrialist to this post. However, the president hedged his bets and played for time.

Clearly, some fierce bargaining has taken place in government circles since the Congress over candidates for the new deputy prime minister. Evidently, Georgiy Khizha is a compromise choice. The military-industrial complex hopes that he will defend its interests. Anatoliy Sobchak, on the other hand, has by all accounts given the liberals certain guarantees about his deputy. Georgiy Khizha has been nicknamed SG in the civil service. He is regarded as a man of charm, and this charm is more than likely to be needed in Moscow's corridors of power.

At the moment the new deputy prime minister is packing his bags in St. Petersburg. His first working day in Moscow starts on 25 May.

'Convinced Promarketeer' Khizha To Aid Defense

PM2605102992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 May 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Interview with Russian Vice Premier Georgiy Khizha conducted in St. Petersburg by correspondent Sergey Krayukhin; date not given: "Georgiy Khizha: 'I represent Major Industrial Interests'"—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] The appointment of Doctor of Technical Sciences Georgiy Khizha as Russian vice premier has already been reported by IZVESTIYA (No. 118). Khizha intends to start his new job on 25 May, after traveling to Moscow from St. Petersburg. Before he left our correspondent, Sergey Krayukhin, recorded this brief interview with him.

[Krayukhin] What, in your new post, is your principal line in organizing industry?

[Khizha] The same line. I support the government's course of radical reform of the economy. The principles governing industry's work must be changed legislatively. Our government, after all, has to date merely announced the launch of the market. And this has not as yet had an impact upon industry. All the laws and all the calculations among enterprises (computation of profit and so on and so forth)—all have remained just as they were. The laws are contradictory. Documents regulating the operation of enterprises have not been drawn up, and enterprises are not just on the brink of stopping, they are actually already doing so. Immediate measures must be taken. If we are unable to "turn on the oxygen," the plants won't survive.

[Krayukhin] What are your first steps? What are the government's first plans?

[Khizha] We must first tackle the problems of financing enterprises. They now languish on the so-called black list. Put more simply, they have enormous debts. This situation must be changed in a major way.

[Krayukhin] Will you be defending St. Petersburg's interests?

[Khizha] Of course I will. This is in the interests of the whole country: St. Petersburg is a very large industrial center and one of Russia's leading scientific regions. I regard the creation of a free enterprise zone here as correct. Such a region should be a region of special government concern.

[Krayukhin] Coming, as you do, from the "Svetlana" Science and Production Association, you are regarded as a spokesman for the military-industry complex. How do you regard this.

[Khizha] The military-industrial complex embraces very high-powered enterprises, the "oboronka," as the defense sector is referred to colloquially. But my industrial colleagues and I consider that this disparaging colloquialism should no longer be used. And it is absurd to subsume the operation of these very important plants under the slogan of conversion—the military-industrial complex represents the best of our national industry rather than narrow military interests. The state's duty (my duty!) is to act in such a way that these powerful enterprises develop. I am a convinced promarketeer. Precisely because I represent the interests of our country's biggest industry.

Oil Exporters Exempt from Export, Customs Dues

PM2205122192 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 May 92 p 4

[Russian Federation Government Ordinance No. 844-R dated Moscow, 5 May 1992 and signed by Ye. Gaydar, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government: "On Additional Measures for Purchasing Foodstuffs and Prime Necessities Using the Proceeds of Deliveries of Oil and Oil Products"]

[Text] With a view to ensuring unconditional compliance with Russian Federation Government Resolution No. 226 of 6 April 1992, organizations exporting oil and oil products in 1992 are exempt from paying export duty and customs dues under the aforementioned resolution.

The ruble equivalent of the 38 percent of hard currency earnings retained by foreign suppliers for loan repayment and the payment for foodstuffs will not be payable to the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance.

Exporters of energy resources are permitted, in order to recoup ruble expenses, to engage in partial sales of hard currency at auction rates (up to $15 per tonne) on the domestic market.

It is prescribed that the aforementioned procedure will operate until the mechanism regulating foreign economic activity is amended.

[Signed] Ye. Gaydar, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government.

Fixed Exchange Rate for Ruble Postponed

LD2205063192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0500 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] The introduction of a fixed exchange rate for the ruble has been postponed for several months. It will take effect not on 1 August, as the government had planned, but some time later. According to Aleksey Ulyukayev, an economic advisor to the Russian Government, it will be realistic to do so about two or three months after the establishment of a floating exchange rate for the ruble, which is planned for July this year.

Nechayev Promises Uniform Exchange Rate

OW2605175892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1547 GMT 26 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking at an annual meeting of the American-Soviet Trade and Economic Council today (May 26), Russian Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev said a uniform (floating) exchange rate would shortly be introduced in Russia to replace the several rates used today, such as the commercial or auction ones. He added that the government would then give direct hard-currency subsidies to some industries rather than subsidizing them indirectly by offering them favorable exchange rates, the way it had been doing up till now.

Within a few months, Nechayev said, a fixed exchange rate would be introduced. He did not give any specific figure but described the rate of 80 rubles to a dollar suggested by some experts as "fairly realistic." He expected the ruble to continue going up, ultimately reaching an "acceptable level." It had already gone up by 100% since January, whereas its actual value had risen several times taking account of the price increases.

Speaking about domestic customers' hard-currency accounts in Vneshekonombank, Nechayev said the accounts had been frozen to gloss over the virtual bankruptcy of the bank. Export revenues would make it possible to lift these restrictions from some of the accounts (Russia's monthly export revenues amount today to a total of 5 bn [billion] rubles, as they did in 1990-91).

The rest of the customers, he said, would be issued securities on the basis of which the bank would be paying them its debt (amounting to a total figure of $5.2 bn) over a period of 3-5 years, with 2-3% interest.

Ruble To Fall Until Privatization Takes Hold

MK2205092592 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 21 May 92 p 6

[Article by Andrey Davydov of the Russian Government Academy of the National Economy Higher International Business School group of experts: "Where Will the Ruble Float?"]

[Text] Judging by the movement in the ruble exchange rate, the Russian economy is already tending to stabilize. The exchange rate against the dollar fell from 160 to 143.6 rubles [R] between 2 and 28 April. Everything is as it was during the good old 1970's, when the ruble grew strong and the dollar plummeted.

Regrettably, the increase in the ruble exchange rate is due not so much to Russian economic recovery as to short-term transitory factors. The drastic drop in foreign trade firms' demand for foreign currencies has ensured that supply steadily exceeds demand at hard-currency auctions. In April $46.9 million were sold at auction—$53 million less than in March. Furthermore, in April exchange auctions were held twice a week, making it possible to avoid a peak concentration of demand. In May demand for foreign currency has again started to rise.

The realities of Russian economic development still leave little room for optimism. According to experts' estimates, by the end of the year GNP will clearly have dropped 30-40 percent and investments will have dropped 50 percent. Unemployment may reach 15 percent of the total work force, and the drop in the standard of living has already put the overwhelming majority of the republic's population over the poverty line.

The government's decision to introduce a single ruble exchange rate for current operations, to cancel all national export quotas and licenses, and abandon compulsory sales of 40 percent of hard currency revenue, along with the export tariff, will of course pep up economic activity in the country. Clumsy national monopolies that have grown accustomed (particularly of late) to inflating the prices of their poor-quality output will have to compete with Western firms. A convertible ruble will after all present potentially the world's largest market as a tasty morsel for foreign importers and investors. At the same time the setting up of new enterprises involving Western capital will ultimately help to raise the living standard of at least some of the population and reduce unemployment and the goods shortage.

But there is still a long way to go to full economic recovery. Russia's market infrastructure is still in the early stages and the single ruble exchange rate will still further expose the economic distortions, increase tension in the national economy, and aggravate the social problems. Hyped-up demand for hard currency may begin on the Russian domestic market, inevitably bringing with it a drastic hike in the dollar exchange rate. Possibly taking it over the R200 mark.

So the desire to keep the rate at R60-80 per dollar, although laudable, seems over-optimistic. Certainly, the West has set up a $6-billion fund to stabilize the ruble. Certainly, we are being allocated major rehabilitation credit to pay for the import of essential commodities. However, these vast amounts of money will clearly not be enough to meet the tremendous effective demand. Thus the government and the Central Bank are faced with a dilemma: Either they allow the ruble-dollar exchange rate to soar to giddy heights or they introduce new administrative restrictions on the sale of hard currency just for the chosen few.

Paradoxical as this sounds, the Russian economy needs a cheap ruble today. On the one hand, Russian manufacturers with an interest in bringing in costly foreign currency have major incentives for expanding foreign exports. On the other hand, the fall in the ruble exchange rate has a restraining effect on increases in imports and helps to reduce Russia's foreign trade deficit.

The ruble exchange rate will fall until the supply of goods and services on the Russian domestic market increases and until wide-ranging privatization of state property and the sale of real estate, to foreigners among others, begins. If just 30 percent of the capital stock currently in

state hands is in fact sold, the hard-currency rate will indeed stabilize at R60-80 to the dollar.

Bunich Eyes Social Impact of Price Hikes

MK2205113792 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 22 May 92 p 5

[Interview with Pavel Bunich by Vyacheslav Goncharov, place and date not given: "One Lot of Wages, Two Lots of Wages"—first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] Every day consumer prices rise by 1 percent on average and by 30 percent or more a month. This hits each family's budget hard. Many people can no longer make ends meet. Everywhere people are talking about the same thing: One lot of wages, two lots of wages.

Your KURANTY correspondent now discusses this topic with the well-known economist Pavel Bunich.

[Goncharov] Pavel Grigoriyevich, a new wave of strikes has begun. Everyone is demanding a wage increase from the government. What do you think about this?

[Bunich] All major social disasters are due to people's living standard. Since 2 January the living standard has fallen, probably to half its former level. That does not take into account the sixfold depreciation of all the money the population possesses, even in savings bank accounts. After all, since the year began prices have doubled while average incomes in the national economy have risen about 500 percent. That is the root cause of it all.

By the way, that is borne out by the statistics on the actual volume of commodity turnover, which has also fallen by half. Taking employees on the public payroll, their incomes lag approximately 35-40 percent behind the economically accountable sphere. These people are the worst affected section of the population. They went on strike to demand higher pay.

In many countries people with such low wages would simply have left the public sector. In our country there is nowhere to go to: Workers are being laid off in the economically accountable sphere, too. In short, things have gone too far. There has been a reaction. Doctors and teachers have gone on strike. Other categories of public-sector employees will also inevitably make demands. For example, science is also in a very desperate state.

But a new danger has appeared today—the complete opposite to that which existed hitherto. What do I mean? That remuneration did not keep pace with the rise in prices. In any event, in the past month or two, the population's incomes have risen faster than prices. This is a completely new phenomenon. It is also dangerous. It will undermine everything that has been done.

[Goncharov] On the other hand they are promising us a rapid stabilization of prices....

[Bunich] There can be no talk of price stabilization yet. There are major factors which, as before, will cause prices to rise by 30-40 percent a month. First, energy prices have only just been freed. And if you have fallen into the river you cannot swim out but have to wait until the current carries you to the bank. In our conditions that bank is world prices. That is why there are more and more new price spirals ahead of us, which, incidentally, will incite people to strike. We must be ready for that.

The second cause of the further price rise is falling production, now into its third year. And, of course, the government will take measures to stop it. First it will give the ailing sectors new credits. These, of course, are not subsidies. But in our country people have become accustomed to not repaying credits. So they regard them as subsidies, too. And they will be considerable. The figure 200 billion has been mentioned, as have other sums. They cover one-third of the nonpayments in industry.

[Goncharov] But this is already a sphere of noncash payments....

[Bunich] This money also seems not to be cash. In fact, it is already being turned into wages and reflected in prices for goods which are already being bought and sold for hard cash.

In short, inflation is not ending. It is going on.

The third and final reason for the further rise in prices lies in the reduction of...taxes. If this gives production a boost, of course, that is good. But if production does not respond at all, what you will get is an increase in the budget deficit which will have to be covered by increased money issue. And increased money issue means more price increases.

We have overlooked personal savings. People did everything they could to avoid having to use them. Now they have no alternative. They have consumed their reserves and are beginning to dip into their savings. It makes no sense not to do so. Monthly inflation is 30-40 percent. If the bank pays 80 percent a year, bank deposits will depreciate by 700 percent a year. So that everyone who realizes that is now hurrying to get his money out of the savings bank and, if the worst comes to the worst, spend it. When people spend their savings prices will rise even further.

[Goncharov] But there is a commodity which can absorb this flood of rubles. I mean foreign currency, which, incidentally, is about to be released into our domestic market in large quantities.

[Bunich] If it is sold at a variable rate it will not be beneficial to invest your money in hard currency: Today it will be at one rate, tomorrow at another.

The state is ready to support the ruble's standing with injections of dollars through the Central Bank of Russia. The ratio may be a little worse for the dollar. Perhaps this will be the most beneficial way to invest our savings. Then Western firms will bring their goods to our

domestic market, which, you see, will encourage the reverse process—a fall in prices.

Measures To Boost Oil, Gas Industries Referred

MK2205180992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 May 92 p 2

[Mikhail Lantsman report under the general heading "New Model of Economic Growth in Store for Russia, But Will It Work?"]

[Text] Yesterday, the Russian Government rejected the Fuel and Energy Ministry's draft state program for the stabilization of the oil and gas complex, which envisaged financial stabilization and the development of new gas fields. During the discussion of the program the president commented on the need to develop a structure for the management of the sector. The president's remark was probably occasioned by the fact that an influential group of oil and gas enterprise general directors are calling for the dismissal of the minister, Vladimir Lopukhin. Aleksey Ulyukayev reported that an amended version of the program will be discussed 30 May at an enlarged meeting of the sector's leaders in the presence of the president.

During the discussion of the state privatization program, Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of the State Property Committee, highlighted three central tasks:

—the activation of small-scale privatization through competitions and auctions;

—preparation for large-scale privatization by turning enterprises into corporations and joint-stock companies and creating a capital market;

—and from the fourth quarter of this year implementing "people's privatization," that is, issuing personal privatization accounts to the population.

It is envisaged that state and municipal property worth 72 billion rubles will be privatized by the end of the year. Chubays believes, however, that the pace of privatization is a long way behind schedule. By 10 May the assets privatized amounted to 3.5 billion rubles at most. The government is pinning its hopes on accelerating the process by including "people's privatization" in it by the end of the year.

Pochinok Says Central Bank 'Violating Laws'

PM2205093992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 May 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "Russian Central Bank Leaders Violating Laws and Charter, Believes Chairman of Parliamentary Committee for Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices"]

[Text] The total volume of mutual nonpayments in Russia in the first quarter amounted to an astronomical sum—1.5 trillion rubles [R]. In the opinion of Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of the parliamentary committee for the budget, plans, taxes, and prices, who cited these figures at a news conference on the evening of 18 May, the financial situation in the republic is on the verge of collapse. There is a real threat that the enterprises are about to start settling accounts with each other directly, bypassing the banks. If that happens, A. Pochinok believes, it will not be possible to avoid the universal collapse of Russia's economy.

IZVESTIYA wrote in a recent issue about the reasons why this catastrophic situation has largely been created. They include the desire of the Central Bank of Russia to establish a monopoly in the credit and financial sphere as a result of which payments are being held up in banking structures. Here the Central Bank remains virtually outside the control of parliament, to which it is subordinate by law. It could be understood from A. Pochinok's introductory speech at the news conference that the event was organized mainly to deny the IZVESTIYA item. But A. Pochinok confirmed its main critical theses.

In particular he admitted that the bank is violating the laws and its own charter. Parliament has still not managed to get a report on the bank's activity submitted, to acquire information about the bank's balance, or even to learn the principles of its monetary and credit policy. A. Pochinok was very critical of the activity of the Central Bank's cash accounting centers where, as we have written, the lion's share of the payments are kept. He also stated that for all his respect for G. Matyukhin for his work in organizing the bank, he intends to demand his resignation. But today G. Matyukhin's resignation will not resolve much. Russia has to extricate itself from the profound credit and financial crisis in which it has found itself largely thanks to the activity of the Central Bank. And no one knows how to do that, at any rate in parliament, according to A. Pochinok.

At the same time in his opinion a large proportion of the responsibility for the crisis rests with the government and the bank has merely strictly implemented its tough monetary policy. Let us allow the specialists to investigate the matter and let us focus on refutations of IZVESTIYA's comment. And after the confirmation of its basic thesis there essentially remained only three such refutations: R. Khasbulatov does not take part in the Central Bank's activity to regulate the work of commercial banks; the R1.5 billion which the speaker distributed among the regions on the eve of the congress were taken not from the bank but from the social support fund; A. Pochinok knows nothing about parliament or individual deputies receiving very preferential credits at the Central Bank.

The two latter questions, in particular the sources from which the fund was formed, require a separate discussion. As for the first refutation, as confirmation of IZVESTIYA's position I shall cite lines from a document of which the editorial office has a copy. It is a letter from G. Matyukhin to R. Khasbulatov, sent 18 November last year: "Esteemed Ruslan Imranovich! In accordance with

your instruction the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Central Bank informs you that it is prepared to examine the question of issuing a license for foreign economic activity to the Russian Muslim joint-stock commercial bank." The document contains instructions in the speaker's own handwriting: "Return to G.G. Matyukhin. I agree."

Back at the end of October last year a draft presidential decree was prepared on the transformation of the Central Bank into the State Bank of Russia, subordinate to both the president and parliament. At the time the decision was motivated by the fact that the Central Bank's position was impeding the implementation of the provisions of the treaty on economic cooperation, destabilizing the economic situation, and aggravating the financial crisis in Russia. Here is how the parliament speaker reacted to the draft at the time: "Boris Nikolayevich, you cannot do this. Either from the viewpoint of the law or of benefit to the cause. You cannot! Tell your advisers that they should not 'pull out' the only element of stability in the entire financial and economic system. In my view attempts to destroy this bank are the start of an imposing transaction which the commercial banks have begun. But you seem to be succumbing to pressure without looking into the matter. R. Khasbulatov, 5 November 1991."

As is well known, the decree did not go out. As a result the "only element of stability" is threatening the economy with a crisis.

Yavlinskiy Group Economic Analysis Cited

PM2505121992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 May 92 p 2

[Report by V. Prokhvatilov: "But As For the Rest, Beautiful Marquise..."]

[Text] The "EPItsentr" research group headed by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy has prepared a report entitled "Economics and Politics in Russia" which analyzes various aspects of economic reform from the viewpoint of the attainment of the aims set by the Russian Government. We offer the reader a brief account of the report's main provisions concerning the state of our economy.

HAS THE GOVERNMENT SUCCEEDED IN STABILIZING FINANCES AND HALTING INFLATION?

The budget policy of the first three months of this year has suffered a setback. On the territory of Russia 336 billion rubles [R] have been collected while the plan was for R513 billion. Excise duty and value added tax have not been collected in full. Revenue from foreign economic activity has not been received in full: Instead of the planned R228 billion only R30 billion have been received. Currency reserves have been almost completely exhausted. As a result of the currency holders' lack of trust in our banking system, the problem of the leakage of capital abroad has been aggravated. The reliance on tough credit policy has been disrupted by the Central Bank of Russia, which has widely practised the issue of "free" credits. Rapid financial stabilization has not been achieved. Moreover the pace of inflation in February through April was considerably in excess of the similar indicators for October through November 1991. After a 250 percent leap in January retail prices, according to the figures of the State Committee for Statistics, increased an average of 24 percent in February and 21 percent in March. But the real level of inflation, independent experts believe, is 50-100 percent higher. The government has failed to fulfill its promise to reduce inflation to 3-5 percent by the end of the first quarter.

WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR THE PAYMENTS CRISIS?

The reason for the payments crisis is the retention of loss-making and inefficient enterprises and the production of output which is not needed under the new conditions. That means that there is a struggle not against the disease but against its symptoms. We have merely been convinced yet again that financial stability has no prospects without the structural restructuring of the economy.

DOES HYPERINFLATION THREATEN US?

How can we assess an economic situation in which for six months now the monthly rate of inflation has been in double figures? In world practice hyperinflation is considered to exist when the prices growth rate is in excess of 50 percent. Proceeding from that criterion, we do not have hyperinflation yet. But analysis shows that the inflation potential is very great. A new spiral in the overall growth of prices will produce an increase in prices for energy sources. We should expect a 150-200 percent increase in retail prices for that reason alone. The wave of increased prices will rebound on the petroleum extracting and gas industry within one and a half to two months. That will predetermine the next stage of the increase in prices for their output.

The government's aim of bringing the domestic prices for oil as close as possible to world prices does not consider that we have a completely different economic structure and a more energy-intensive and materials-intensive national income. In addition a substantial increase in the minimum level of wages and pensions and the intensification of the strike movement are releasing the classic "prices and income" spiral which is being held back so far only by the shortage of cash.

The economy has accumulated a tremendous inflation potential but inflation is proceeding in our country by leaps alternating with relatively slow periods.

The population has strong expectations of inflation and their trust in the ruble has been undermined. These and a number of other reasons attest that Russia is on the threshold of hyperinflation.

HAVE WE REACHED THE LOW POINT OF THE CRISIS?

The economy came up against a deep slump in production back in 1991. At the time industrial production was reduced by 8 percent. The main reasons for the crisis then were the structural imbalance and drastic reduction of investments. The reduction of imports and the curtailment of relations with the East European countries played their part. In January through March 1992 the slump was markedly intensified and average daily production fell by a further 15 percent. New factors went into operation: The drastic reduction of interrepublican deliveries, the financial policy aimed at restricting demand. The producers, the majority of whom are monopolists, are reducing production output but not costs and prices. There are two ways out of this situation: The reduction of costs, which is connected with additional investments and is impossible right now, or the reorganization of the monopolies, for which investments are also needed. Or these monopolies can simply be allowed to die so that something new can arise in their place.

The critical points are the fuel and energy complex, the metallurgical industry, the chemical industry, oil refining, the construction complex, the defense industry, and a broad spectrum of sectors depending on imports.

Food production fell 28 percent.

The slump has had the most painful effect on the light and food industries, on the construction complex, that is on those sectors which even before could not meet even the population's minimum requirements. At the same time enterprises and base sectors whose hypertrophied nature is obvious are being closed down. The slump is acquiring an uncontrollable nature.

The lowest point of the crisis is still ahead. The intensification of the recession will be connected with an increase in prices for energy sources, the need to close down some insolvent enterprises, and the continuation of the course toward "opening up" the economy.

Impact of Energy Price Liberalization Viewed

PM2605152192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 May 92 First Edition p 1

["Commentary" by Professor Aleksandr Livshits, doctor of economical sciences: "Prices for Energy Sources: The Intermediate Option"]

[Text] The price liberalization wave now running through the Russian economy was bound to reach the island of energy sources sooner or later. The government which opened the floodgates is left to answer only two questions: How will it happen and when. It is now known that it preferred the intermediate option, organizing a regulated increase in prices. Let us say oil now has a maximum price—2,200 rubles [R] per tonne. Those who intend to trade in it at prices ranging between R1,800 and R2,200 will have to hand over to the budget a tidy sum in the form of energy duty from every R100 earned.

A compromise is always vulnerable. Certain influential economists believe that at the moment it would be better not to touch prices for energy resources at all. They say that it took enormous effort to achieve a fragile macroeconomic equilibrium and erect a building near which people are frightened to breathe. Because the government is stretching its hand toward the foundation, intending to replace one building block with another, everything could quickly come crashing down. Others, on the contrary, lament that the government is showing hitherto uncharacteristic fussiness and is wilting under pressure from the incompetent deputies' corps.

Even now it is clear that the implementation of government decisions on energy sources will result in several inflationary trends. One of them, not the strongest, will run through energy consumption. The other, much more powerful, will follow on from the budget deficit. The point is that the price increases for energy sources will hit transportation and the agricultural, housing, and utilities economies hardest. Subsidies, concentrated influxes of preferential centralized credits, and excessive tax allowances will be needed. If you add to this the scheduled increase in social payments and the general and—let us note—unpunished proliferation of very easy methods of extracting money with the aid of trade union violence against employed people and strike blackmail, expenditures will be needed which, according to forecasts, will be almost double the additional earnings from the energy duty and value added tax. The movement toward a nondeficit budget will slow down and inflation will increase. The price index will probably increase by a factor ranging between two and four. This is without taking account of retaliatory measures by the CIS states. And they, let us be under no illusion, will be fully commensurate.

The fuel and energy complex will have more money. But chiefly in accounts and not in the pocket or in production, because there is still a long way to go from even the huge liability to suppliers of energy sources to real investments in extracting and processing them.

The ordinary Russian consumer is gradually adapting to conditions of open inflation, getting used to the parallel increase in prices and incomes, and is following quite a consistent behavior model. Higher prices are unlikely to frighten him if his wage rises by an average of, say, up to R8,000-10,000 per month. Provided that he is paid promptly. This means that the banking system will become the biggest bottleneck during the implementation of government decisions on energy sources. The situation is now such that it will simply not withstand a new leap in inflation—neither organizationally nor technically. It is right here that economic vessels could be tightly stopped up. Moreover, the shortage of cash, like any other shortage, has spawned a special kind of shadow economy—under-the-counter trading in money and corruption unprecedented in scale and impudence, whereby bribes are taken for the speedy registration of payment documents and other routine banking transactions. As we are well aware, once it has appeared a shortage breeds people who have an interest in perpetuating and worsening it. Another

thing is also important. Many citizens, who until now have associated price rises with government machinations, are even surer that the authorities are to blame for holding back wages. Maybe the population is not going to start protesting over the new prices, but it will never submit to such dishonorable conduct by the state.

The domestic producer's situation will not improve at all. Taxes are high, the price of credit is excessive—which furthermore has mainly become short-term and of little use for investing, the stock market is not developed, demand is unstable, there is no effective government support, and the curse of an inflationary economy—a severe lack of savings—prevails. Expensive energy sources will make the situation worse, while in energy-intensive sectors the investment process could simply be blocked.

The imminent consequences of the increase in the prices of energy sources do not, as we can see, bode well. Losses cannot be avoided, but they can and must be reduced. It would seem that credit policy should be slightly relaxed while production is adapting to new prices, the Central Bank of Russia's mandatory reserves norm and credit rates being reduced. What is urgently needed is a law on bankruptcy allowing the government to correct market selection and protect enterprises working for the consumer market from probable financial ruin. Compensation measures, including preferential taxation, are needed, primarily in agriculture. It would be worth while thinking about dividing the energy duty into two parts. One would be given to the federal budget, and the second would be used as a basis to form a special fund ensuring the targeted granting of credit for capital investments in the fuel and energy complex, its privatization, and insurance for direct foreign investments. The time is ripe for profound reform of the banking system going far beyond the recent presidential decree.

As regards time scales, there is nothing to discuss here: Price rises are always inopportune and at the wrong time. Let us remember in addition that, according to the memorandum sent to the IMF, the government intended to liberalize (and not raise in a centralized fashion!) prices for energy sources, excluding electricity and gas, even before 20 April. It was impossible to delay any longer. An act was required—as difficult as it was necessary. It is in fact absurd to carry out price liberalization while simultaneously retaining in the economy a separately considered sector where prices remain planned.

Interest Rates for Commercial Bank Credits Set

OW2305175092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 23 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As was announced at today's press conference on the results of the International Experience and the Russian Economy forum in Moscow, the Central Bank of Russia has today established an interest rate of 80% for credits to be given to commercial banks.

Three congresses were held within the framework of the forum: one on finance and banking, one on business enterprise, and one on problems of conversion of the military industry to civilian production. Within a week or so recommendations will be prepared on the basis of the congresses' work.

Serious criticism was leveled during the forum at the medical insurance system, the banking system, the government's privatization practice, and the Central Bank's policy of raising interest rates.

The next such forum will probably be held in May next year.

Consequences From CPSU Ban Hearings Examined

PM2605120192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 May 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Article by Otto Latsis: "Who's Afraid of the Constitutional Court?"]

[Text] The Constitutional Court hearings on the decrees banning the CPSU are slated for 26 May, but the public is already giving its verdict. The side effect of involved litigation—which could be the main result of the hearings and which was probably not foreseen by the initiators of the case—is already visible. Society is already passing judgment and waiting tensely for the outcome—which will produce acute political problems whatever happens.

Probably those who organized the hearings thought that this would be a problem only for the Russian president, whose decrees were being disputed: If the court deems his actions to be incorrect, he will have to admit his mistake; but if the court supports him, the opposition will have a reason to criticize the authorities for a violation of democracy. If that was indeed the thinking, then it was hasty.

I think that the court will cause fewer problems for the president than for the other political forces involved in the dispute. Yes, observers who have already spoken out in the press have noted the vulnerability of the decrees from the standpoint of standard legal ideas of existing democracy. But the political justification for restricting the activities of the former monopolist of power in the postputsch situation is equally obvious. So if the court even considers it necessary to review the decrees in one way or another, this will hardly damage the president's authority in the eyes of most voters, who have repeatedly reaffirmed that they assess his actions differently from professional politicians or lawyers.

In a purely practical sense even the most favorable court ruling for the president will neither create problems for the government nor give any advantage to the opposition. After all, everyone knows that in actual fact the decrees do not place any restrictions on the practical activities of parties calling themselves communist, much less do they come with any reprisals against communists.

The All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks), the Russian Communist Workers Party, the League of Communists, and others who have declared themselves to be the successors to the CPSU are operating quite openly and sometimes even not wholly in line with legal norms, but nobody is hampering them.

The CPSU's activities ended not because of any ban, which in practice has not existed. It broke up because of political suicide organized and carried out by the reactionary wing of the party's own apparatus. These genuine anticommunists with party cards in their pockets dealt the fatal blows to the CPSU, and the lifting of a ban will change nothing. The attempt to revive the CPSU by repealing decrees is like the theater of shadows at Voronovo Sovkhoz, where attempts were made to revive the USSR with the votes of a couple of hundred well-wishers.

What could be a subject of really practical discussion is the nationalization of CPSU property, rather than the ban on its political activity. But even here no court is able to change anything: It is impossible to return property to the deceased. Here too Russian reality supplies a precedent hitherto unknown to legal practice and therefore not subject to traditional rulings. The multimillion-strong party which built up this property (not without the help of nonparty people, incidentally) no longer exists, nor will it exist in the future. The attempt to transfer this property to the remnants of the old apparatus currently staking a claim to it would be an affront to the will of, above all, the millions of former communists who have not confirmed anyone's property claims. So even life itself requires an original legal decision.

Just who is scared of the forthcoming hearing? It could be dangerous for its very initiators. The hearing will not be a purely legal event, irrespective of whoever would like it to be that way. It has already become a political event before it has begun, and this is preordained by the very role which the CPSU played in our society. In legal terms, of course, it would be wrong to confuse the hearing as a legal process with what is generally termed the judgment of history. But the very logic of the dispute threatens to turn the hearing into exactly the kind of trial of the CPSU which the communists would like to avoid. After all, in seeking arguments to use in their favor the defenders of the decrees will probably look to analyze the events of the past. The Constitutional Court will "judge" the president's decrees, while the society that hears the ruling will judge the CPSU.

Perhaps this should not be regretted: Could the initiators of the hearing be about to get what's coming to them? Perhaps. But the probable dangers of the litigation are not confined to this. We cannot rule out consequences which would be detrimental to all of society. One of these unpleasant possibilities is that the hearings would turn (maybe not in the court itself, but in press commentaries and the uncontrollable public reaction to them) into a trial of everyone who was a party member or into litigation between former communists and noncommunists. In this event, the buildup of hostility could bring about a split in society which nobody expected and nobody wanted. Only general restraint and good will on all sides in and beyond the courtroom will enable us to avoid this.

Another danger is the possible clash between politics and the law—that age-old contradiction between the law and "revolutionary expediency" which was so easy for the Bolsheviks to overcome and whose eventual consequences were so hard for everyone...Yes, there are few people in the country who would like to see people like Makashov, Zyuganov, and Nina Andreyeva in power. But we would finally like to learn how to achieve desirable aims for the majority of society by irreproachably legal means—otherwise we will never escape the accursed cycle of lawlessness.

Supreme Soviet

'Condolences' Expressed Over South Ossetia

LD2205131892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1240 GMT 22 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow May 22 TASS—"The Russian parliament experienced a feeling of deep regret and compassion on receiving the tragic news of the death of over 30 civilians in South Ossetia as a result of the attack on a passenger bus on the Tskhinvali-Vladikavkaz Highway," says a statement adopted by the Russian legislature on Friday [22 May].

"Russian lawmakers express sincere condolences to the kith and kin of the deceased," it continues.

On hearing information that the Georgian State Council denounced that criminal act and set up an investigative group, including representatives from Tskhinvali and North Ossetia, parliament expressed hope that "strict measures will be taken to expose fully this outrageous crime and punish criminals".

Expressing their deep indignation and protesting against this new act of violence, Russian parliamentarians again called for achieving a complete ceasefire, ending the bloodshed in the region and normalising immediately the situation in the region through a just political settlement of the conflict in accordance with the principles of the U.N. Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter for a New Europe.

Statement Calls For South Ossetia Cease-Fire

LD2605130392 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1100 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet has adopted a statement in connection with the tragic events in South Ossetia. The Russian parliament calls for a complete cease-fire, an end to the bloodshed, and an immediate

normalization of the situation based on a just political settlement of the conflict in accordance with international norms.

Further on Agreement To Join IMF

LD2205160592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1310 GMT 22 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 22 May—The Supreme Soviet has agreed with a government proposal that Russia join the International Monetary Fund, as well as other financial organizations—the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development, and the International Development Association. Parliament's decision on this question was adopted without particular difficulties. The Russian Government is now to sign the texts of the agreements on the entry of the Russian Federation to these international organizations on behalf of the Russian state.

In accordance with parliament's decision, the government is authorized to take all necessary measures to ensure fulfilment of commitments and to implement the entitlements stemming from Russia's participation in the IMF and the two other international organizations. The government is entitled to borrow or obtain in a different suitable way and allot on behalf of the Russian Federation the monetary amounts that are periodically paid to the Fund, the Bank, and the Association under the terms set forth in resolutions concerning the Russian Federation's membership in these organizations.

Supreme Soviet Discusses Laws, Goods Supply

LD2305212692

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1938 GMT on 23 May broadcasts a 30-minute recorded highlights of today's Russian Supreme Soviet session held in Moscow.

The highlights open with a discussion of the new patent law. A speaker explains that a number of amendments have been suggested to the proposed law. First, the law is adopted as a basis by a majority of 70 to 0. Discussion of the amendments then starts. The first speaker from the floor objects to one of these amendments. Another deputy praises the law and says it is very necessary. He wants it studied today. However, the law is eventually sent back for further work to be done on it.

The session then discusses food supplies for the railways and river transport system in the Moscow region. Deputy Gololobov speaks on this subject. He says that both passengers and transport staff need to be fed. To this end organizations providing supplies of this sort should be regarded as federal, not municipal property, he says. He wants a decision to be adopted.

Khasbulatov asks whether there are any objections. An unidentified deputy comments on the proposals from the floor. He notes that creeping privatization of supply organizations has already started. He wants the subject studied in a wider context at a later date. However, he accepts the decision for now. A vote is taken—passed by 186 to 0.

Changes to the Russian criminal code are then discussed. Deputy Zolotukhin comes to the rostrum to explain the amendments which are proposed. He says that citizens should not be liable to arrest at preliminary hearings. However, prosecutors still have the right to issue arrest warrants at this stage. Only a court should have this right. Amendments to this effect have been prepared. Zolotukhin wants to explain the amendments. But first they are adopted as a basis by both chambers.

Zolotukhin continues with his explanation. The first one is proposed by Prosector General Stepankov. This concerns the rights of courts in considering appeals against arrest. Stepankov believes a court should only have the right to question the legality of an arrest, not the justification for it. The Committee on Legislation rejects this amendment and wants it thrown out, since it emasculates the rights which courts should have.

Prosecutor General Stepankov speaks from the floor in defense of his amendment. He says it concerns the legality of arrest. He reasserts that the only issue at stake is the legality of arrest. A court should not interfere with preliminary investigations before a case has been made. He proposes a revised wording, namely "legality of arrest" rather than "justification of arrest." Stepankov says he is a lawyer and knows what he is talking about. It should not be thought that people will be held in custody endlessly, and cites some figures to back up his argument.

Khasbulatov puts Stepankov's motion to the vote. However, it does not receive the required majority, being short of one vote in the Soviet of Nationalities. Zolotukhin resumes his discussion of amendments. He says he cannot accept Stepankov's arguments. He wants the chairman of the Russian Supreme Court to address the session.

Stepankov speaks again from the floor. He defines the difference between the words "legality" and "justification." He says judges will be inundated with appeals for suspects to be released from arrest, and this is not fair on judges in areas where there is only one judge per district, for instance the Far North. Furthermore, there are many vacancies for judges in the Russian Federation.

Supreme Court Chairman Vyacheslav Mikhaylovich Lebedev sets out the position of the Supreme Court. He says a detainee should be able to appeal against the actions of a prosecutor. He says that Stepankov's amendment should be rejected. Another vote is taken in both chambers and the amendment is finally rejected. However, the argument continues. Other amendments are also discussed. The law is later adopted in principle.

On another subject deputy Tarasov suggests that there should be a series of programs on television and radio which address the problems facing the Supreme Soviet.

Public opinion has been given the wrong impression of what the Supreme Soviet is up to. The Russian parliament should be able to defend itself.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Visits Altay, Predicts Growing Prices

LD2705100792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 27 May 92

[Correspondent A. Poklad report from Barnaul; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The main program for the Russian president's visit to Barnaul began today. [video shows Yeltsin arriving, visiting various sites, and greeting members of crowd]

Despite the many international and inter-CIS affairs, President Boris Yeltsin is adhering precisely to the schedule of his trips around Russia. According to this schedule, he visits one or two territories in the country a month. Yeltsin arrived in Barnaul, the capital of Altay Kray, yesterday. He made a statement to the press at the airport, and laid wreaths at the monument to those who died during the Great Fatherland War.

Early this morning, when it was still night in Moscow, the Russian president visited the Altay engine works and the fuel apparatus works.

[Begin recording] [indistinct greetings, complaints from the crowd; Yeltsin takes the microphone and starts speaking] [Yeltsin] No, no, no. Things more expensive here? No, this is not the case. Things are cheaper here than in Moscow. On the whole, the price index is 503 in Altay Kray and around 700 in Moscow. So, on the whole, prices are higher in Moscow. But prices were always higher in Moscow. Conditions are different there as well, so comparisons should not be made with Moscow. The fact that things are expensive is true. But I will tell you further, since I am not used to deceiving people ever, prices will rise even more.

About the point that wages are not being paid—an aircraft is now on its way with 500 million rubles [R], with me; wages are being brought—R500 million. So you will be given your wages in full.

And why these prices? I will explain this to you now. It is not because...[changes thought] Prices are not now being dictated by Moscow. These are not even a rise in prices; these are market prices. Why will they begin to rise? Fuel prices needed to be increased somewhat because we had, nonetheless, not yet ventured to make fuel prices free. Although the IMF put a lot of pressure on us, I said: You are not dictating to us, we will conduct our policies ourselves, as it were, not you. Although they promise credits of 24 billion [currency unspecified], this is still just a promise—pie in the sky, as they say. Therefore, we have raised fuel prices, but they are still fixed, let us say; 1,000 for coal, more than 700 for oil [currency unspecified]. But with the increase in fuel prices, prices will rise further along the whole chain—metal and so on, and so forth, and cotton and foodstuffs. However, wages should also rise. Definitely. [end recording]

A visit to the country is planned for this afternoon, to Kalmanskiy Rayon, to a private farm holding in the village of Buranovo.

Remarks on Second Term

MK2705105792 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 May 92 pp 1,3

[Vera Kuznetsova report under the "Russia" rubric: "'I've Grown Accustomed To Being Attacked, I Just Get Fiercer...' Boris Yeltsin Said in Barnaul"]

[Text] This was how the president began his discussion with the people of Barnaul on the street. "A referendum? To be president?" Yeltsin repeated. His response was as follows: "There is no such referendum!" He promised to "serve" his term and not apply for a second term (on both age and health grounds). "I will not resign, I will not stand down." But there will be other referendums, on buying and selling land among others, you only need to collect 1 million signatures; the president seemed to be calling for action.

Yeltsin stressed that he is not just speaking for the sake of it. He promised to stabilize the economy by the end of the year—what he said will happen. Admittedly, the president said that prices of "absolutely everything" will rise before this happened. People on the street had just one question: "How much (will prices rise)? How much?" On the Kurils Boris Nikolayevich remained true to his five-stage plan: "I have never said that we will surrender the Kurils. This problem may be settled in 20 years."

One resident of Barnaul simply asked the president the following question about relations with Ukraine: "Will there be war?" "Don't get excited, we won't allow it," the Russian president said. He spoke of his telephone conversation with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk (on the latter's initiative) 25 May and of two agreements with him. First, it was agreed that the trio (president, Supreme Soviet chairman, and prime minister) would hold talks at the beginning of June, probably in Dagomys, on Russian territory at any rate. "There we will get away from questions based on emotion, rather than the crux of the matter," Yeltsin said. Second, the presidents agreed on a meeting in Odessa 27-28 May of the Moldovan, Russian, and Ukrainian defense and foreign ministers over the situation in the Dniester region and the actions of the Russian 14th Army.

Then talk turned to the results of today's Constitutional Court hearing of the CPSU case. The president remarked with delight: "The hearings have ended. The next are to be held 7 July."

Yeltsin's trip to Altay Kray and Buryatia is part of his monthly schedule, he said. The next trip will be to Kalmykia. "I think that I need to go to places where things are difficult; in areas where things are OK people can wait," the president said.

Answers Questions on Military

OW2605215992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2140 GMT 26 May 92

[All quotation marks as received; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Upon his arrival in Barnaul Tuesday [26 May] night, President Boris Yeltsin preferred questions, from the residents who gathered on a square in the Altay region's capital, to journalists' queries.

"By these questions, he said afterwards, it's clear what the people of Russia are particularly concerned about. The chief ones are: relations between Ukraine and Russia, the fate of the Kurils, the policy of prices, the situation in the Army.

Boris Yeltsin reaffirmed the understanding with President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine to hold within the first 10 days of June a meeting of the Presidents, Supreme Soviet and government leaders of both states to discuss bilateral relations.

On the problem of Kurils, Mr Yeltsin declared: "I've never said that Russia intends to give the Kurils away. This issue calls for a stage-by-stage solution"—he said.

Answering numerous queries on the policy of prices, those of fuel and energy costs included, the President said that "the growing prices of fuel and energy costs would obviously send the prices of everything else up". However, this forthcoming growth, in the President's words, will be conclusive to be followed by a stabilization period. "I'll be true to these words of mine"—the President assured.

Many Altay residents voiced anxiety about the situation in the army. Replying that series of question, Russia's Head of State declared that in his opinion "it was calmer" in the army now than before. He attributes this to the fact that Russia has got down to the formation of its armed forces. The President announced steps to be taken to socially secure servicemen and their families. In June, he added, similar steps will be taken toward educational and medical staffs and law enforcement personnel in Russia.

The "IF" [INTERFAX] special correspondent Boris Grishchenko was the first journalist to put a question to Russia's President. Asked why he'd chosen Altay and Buryatiya rather than some other region for his tour, the President explained that the territories graphically exposed many problems of the pace of reforms in Russia, including the problems of privatization and commercialization in industry, agriculture, and trade.

"I know, Mr. Yeltsin said, that there will be a lot of stinging questions and criticism, which I do not evade. I prefer to travel where it's more complex. This is part of my program to personally familiarize myself with various regions in Russia." The next stage will be Kalmykiya and the Omsk region tentatively in a month's time.

On Wednesday, Russia's President is to visit a number of major industrial facilities and farms. In the evening, he's to meet the leadership of the Altay region.

Addresses Moldova Issue

LD2605193292 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1830 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] President Yeltsin has begun a four-day visit to Altay Kray and the Republic of Buryatiya. On arriving in Barnaul, Boris Yeltsin reported that the defense and foreign ministers of Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova will probably meet on 27 or 28 May in Odessa on all the issues involving the 14th Army and the Dniester situation. The president told Barnaul residents worried by the latest reports from Moldova: Do not worry; we will not permit war.

Tatar Parliament Defines New Republic Status

OW2205181192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1722 GMT 22 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Friday [22 May] the Tatar Parliament passed a resolution on measures aimed at the implementation of the state sovereignty of Tatarstan where the new status of the republic is defined. It is considered as a sovereign state, a subject of the international law, which is building its relations with other republics and states on the basis of bilateral agreements (this is the formulation of the March 21 referedum's question—"IF" [INTERFAX])

To this effect the Parliamentarians appealed to other states and international organizations with a proposal to build their relations with Tatarstan according to its new status.

Languages Bill Approved

OW2305143292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 23 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Tatar Parliament approved in its initial wording a bill on languages in the republic drafted by the Institute of language and literature. The bill proclaims equality for two official languages in the republic—Tatar and Russian. It also states that in order to hold certain posts it is necessary to know both languages. The Cabinet of Ministers will define a list of such posts and terms for qualification exams.

According to people's deputy Ivan Grachev of the "Consent" faction which submitted an alternative draft bill, limits on occupations are discriminatory and reminiscent of the situation in Latvia. He said that a similar bill failed to lead to a wider spread of the Latvian language but facilitated the efforts to get rid of the leaders of different enterprises on a national scale. The official draft bill envisages a forced introduction of the Tatar language, Grachev said.

Military Service Resolution Passed

OW2305142592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1337 GMT 23 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At its final May 22 session Tatarstan's Parliament passed a resolution "On calling up the citizens of Tatarstan for the active military service in 1992" which defines the order of military service by the citizens of the republic in the CIS Armed Forces.

According to the resolution the conscripts from Tatarstan will serve in the CIS frontier troops or in detachments deployed on the territory of the Volga-Urals military district. The conscripts are forbidden to get involved in ethnic or territorial conflicts. Nevertheless under the resolution conscripts from Tatarstan may undergo military service in the armies of other CIS states according to their wish and to the corresponding interstate agreements.

While discussing the resolution Tatarstan's President Mintimer Shaymiyev underlined that Tatarstan did not change its attitude to the issue of delegating its powers to Russia in respect to defense matters.

The Tatar Parliament also passed a resolution on retaining 38% of shares of the joint-stock company "KamAZ" as Tatarstan's property. Until now these shares belonged to the former USSR Ministry of Automobile and Agricultural Machinebuilding and were owned by the Russian federal property fund.

Tatarstan Peoples' Congress Opens in Kazan

LD2305161292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0738 GMT 23 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Sorokin]

[Text] Kazan May 23 TASS—The Congress of Tatarstan's Peoples opened on Saturday [23 May] in Kazan.

The aim of the forum is to unite peoples, taking into account interests of each of them. Seventy nationalities are residing in the republic, said Chairman of the Kazan Multinational Socio-Political Centre Rifkat Gazizov. Our organization, set up two years ago, he said, has came out with the initiative to convene the congress. Chuvash, Mari, Bashkir, Mordovian, Slav, christened Tatars, Russian, Kazakh, Azeri, Jewish and Tatar centres are operating in the centre. Each of the peoples has its own problems, he went on to say, so we decided to discuss them and jointly map out ways of the development of each nation and people of sovereign Tatarstan.

About five hundred deputies from Tatarstan's cities and villages, 200 guests from neighbouring regions and republics of the Volga region are present at the congress. The congress has adopted the following documents: An appeal to the leadership of Tatarstan, resolution on the creation of the Republican Association of National-Cultural Society.

Sovereignty Declaration Supported

OW2405142392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 24 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The First Congress of the Peoples of Tatarstan held in Kazan this week expressed support for the Declaration of the National Sovereignty of the Republic of Tatarstan backed up by the results of a nationwide referendum and stressed that the state power bodies operating on the basis of the Tatar constitution and laws were guarantors of the stable political, economic, and cultural development of the republic.

The congress called upon all political parties and movements to avoid making any acts or statements that might serve to aggravate interethnic relations in Tatarstan, and to take steps to protect the rights of the individual regardless of his nationality or religion.

The congress proposed to the President, parliament chairman and Prime Minister of Tatarstan that they launch a comprehensive national program for the development of the languages and cultures of the peoples inhabiting Tatarstan on the basis of national cultural autonomy, and that they set up a "center of peoples' friendship" charged with the study of the history and culture of these peoples.

The members of Tatarstan's multi-ethnic Soglasiye (Concord) movement, the Democratic Reform Movement of Tatarstan, the Citizens of the Russian Federation movement, the Tatar branch of the Democratic Party of Russia, the Republican Party of the Peoples of Tatarstan, the Free Russia Popular Party, and the Slavonic Club who attended the congress as guests left in protest against not being allowed to state their positions on the nationality issue and on relations with the Russian Federation.

Moscow Soviet Chairman Gonchar Under Fire

MK2705134992 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 27 May 92 p 1

[Report by Yelena Tarasova: "N. Gonchar Not Shot Down"]

[Text] "I am bored with this state of suspense," Nikolay Gonchar, chairman of the Moscow Soviet, stated on the

very first day of the present session's work and demanded a secret ballot to determine the question of confidence in him in accordance with the law "On the Kray and Oblast Soviet, the Kray and Oblast Administration."

Incidentally, in the year since Gonchar's election as chairman of the City Soviet this question has been raised six times. Clearly deputies "got to" their chairman and Gonchar has taken quite a risky step: If more than half the deputies express no confidence in him, he will have to resign. The vote took place yesterday.

"Well, let's take him down a peg or two," one deputy, a well-known microphone "hogger," said, rubbing his hands in glee, at the entrance to the Marble Hall. And they did. Here are a few brief extracts from the verbatim account of the speeches.

Dmitriyevskiy: "Muscovites hate the mayor they elected, scorn the deputies they elected...As for... Nikolay Nikolayevich [Gonchar], I think that over the past year he has shown himself unfit for his job...Do not change horses in midstream, they say. Enough of that, people have to understand that there are other proverbs that apply here: They shoot horses don't they?..."

Balashov: "Nikolay Nikolayevich's year as chairman has seen the Moscow City Soviet slide from democracy into communist policy."

Sobolev: "You can insult people in Russian, in English, in Uzbek, or Tajik, and by mimicry. How long can you go on watching when this abuse is coming from the chairman!"

Deputy Rodionov gave the Credentials Commission his credentials in an envelope: "If the Moscow City Soviet thinks it possible to be led by Nikolay Nikolayevich, I cannot take part in these games as a deputy." Speaking on behalf of the "'Democratic Russia' movement" faction, Deputy Kruglyakov read out a statement in which the faction expressed no confidence in Gonchar.

There were also speeches in support of the chairman, which essentially boil down to this: The Moscow City Soviet is the reflection of its leader and "you can't blame the mirror."

In his closing address before the vote Gonchar answered just the one opponent—Deputy Sobolev—who had accused him of using "abusive language as chairman": "My father taught me that when the chips are down, you've got to speak up for yourself"—'Take it easy, Kolya, get a grip on yourself!'..."

...At the final session it was decided that the discussion of the report by Moscow City Government Minister Yu. Andreyev should be filmed for television and A. Zholkov flatly refused to speak without the TV cameras.

After the recess the cameras were present, but...there was no quorum.

The deputies with the greatest patience waited around for the result of the Gonchar confidence vote: There were 270 votes in favor (74.8 percent) and 65 against (18 percent).

International Affairs

Turkish Paper Interviews Kravchuk on Issues

NC2505093092 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 6 May 92 p 14

[Nur Batur report from Ankara: "War Will Be Catastrophic for Us"]

[Text] Dark clouds have gathered over the Black Sea region because of the dispute between Ukraine and Russia on the Black Sea Fleet and the Crimea. Relations between Kiev and Moscow have gotten so bad that several observers believe that the possibility of some sort of hot clash developing is increasing.

President Leonid Kravchuk visited Ankara for 24 hours in this tense atmosphere to discuss the extremely dangerous developments with Prime Minister Demirel. We had a lengthy meeting with him before he left. We examined what the cold winds, which have begun to blow north of Turkey, might bring. President Kravchuk was rather worried and uneasy, saying: "A war would be catastrophic. I hope Russia realizes that a war would be disastrous."

The CIS Was Born Dead

We assessed the situation of the CIS. What was the Ukraine's viewpoint on the future of the CIS? President Kravchuk said he is not optimistic about the future of the new "umbrella" [semsiye], established to maintain ties among the former Soviet republics, saying: "The CIS was established with two objectives in mind: First, to establish the conditions required for cooperation among the independent republics, which made up the former Soviet Union; second, to establish relations among the CIS members based on equality and justice. Regrettably, neither the first nor the second objectives have been achieved."

Drawing attention to the CIS' failure to adopt and implement any important decisions, he asserted: "Each country has to solve its own problems now. The CIS has been unable to play any active role."

In other words, the CIS, which was established through Russia's initiatives, is nothing more than an organization born dead.

President Kravchuk did not want to pin such a harsh label on the Commonwealth; however, he did say: "Unfortunately, it has not been able to carry out effective work. It has failed to achieve its objective."

Tension

President Kravchuk noted that the CIS has failed to play an effective role in halting the clashes in Karabakh and in resolving the political and economic crises in the independent republics. Furthermore, serious problems have emerged between Russia, which laid the foundations of the CIS, and the other members of that organization. The most important of these being the Black Sea Fleet and the Crimea. President Kravchuk explained his country's relations with Russia this way: "The roots of relations between Ukraine and Russia are buried in history. Now, however, these relations must be based on the principle of equality. Our relations must not be like a sibling rivalry. Relations between brothers are based on equality. Bilateral economic and political relations must be based on equality. Ukraine has not put any demand on Russia. Unfortunately, certain circles in Russia do not hold a similar view regarding Ukraine. They do not wish to recognize the Ukraine as a state. They have put forward land claims. They have also made demands on the Crimea. They do not wish to recognize our rights on the Black Sea Fleet."

President Kravchuk made the following statement regarding the Black Sea Fleet: "Ukraine must have a naval force made up of an adequate number of ships in the Black Sea."

President Kravchuk said that Russia wants Ukraine to have a naval force large enough only to protect its coastline. His response to this follows: "We have not made any demand regarding the Baltic or Pacific Fleets. We wish to establish a fleet from ships built in the Ukraine. Approximately 20 percent of the former Soviet Naval ships were built here. Despite the fact that the ships of the former Soviet Naval Forces were constructed with Ukrainian steel, our demand concerns only the Black Sea Fleet."

Problem of Crimea

Another problem adding to the tension between the two nations is the Crimea. Former Soviet leader Krushchev gave the Crimea to Kiev on the 300th anniversary of relations between Russia and Ukraine. Now, however, Russia is demanding jurisdiction over the Crimea. The fact that the majority of the Crimea population is Russian has provided Russian nationalists in Moscow with a strong case. Several other factors, however, strengthen Ukraine's position on the matter, including the fact that the borders of all the former Soviet republics were guaranteed when the CIS was established. Another important reason for Kiev's reluctance to return Crimea to Russia is the Port of Odessa, which is the base of the Black Sea Fleet. A strong case is currently being made about holding a referendum in Crimea on this issue. Naturally, Ukraine is categorically opposed to the idea.

Can a War Be Fought?

We asked the president if relations would be severed and war would break out between Kiev and Moscow over the Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet. Kravchuk, said: "I do not think so." He did not, however, conceal his anxiety, adding: "I hope that all the problems will be solved at the negotiating table. A clash between the peoples would be catastrophic. I hope that Russia understands that. We will do everything possible to avoid such a development."

His reply seemed like an appeal to Moscow.

President Kravchuk said that he was prepared to meet with President Boris Yeltsin to solve all bilateral problems. He tried to keep the door open for a dialogue with Yeltsin by saying the following: "A dialogue can be held after the second round of the talks on the Black Sea Fleet."

President Kravchuk also said that Ukraine will fulfill its undertakings on the question of nuclear arms and sign the necessary agreements. He noted: "The people of Ukraine demand that Ukraine's borders be guaranteed."

Dniester Delegation Presents Appeals in Kiev

LD2305164192 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] A delegation of the Association of Ukrainians of Dniester left Kiev today. Upon the instruction of the first all-Ukraine Assembly of Dniester, the delegation brought the assembly's appeal to the president of Ukraine, Supreme Soviet, government, parties, movements and public organizations as well as an appeal to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations Organization and Ukrainians of the entire world. We come out for a united federative Moldova, said the chairman of the Association of Ukrainians of Dniester, Oleksandre [name indistinct]. If the state and political status is refused to Dniester then we reserve the right for self-determination in accord with other nations who live on the left bank of the Dniester up to returning to Ukraine.

Gas Agreement With Turkmenistan Examined

OW2405162292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 24 May 92

[From the "Interfax Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkmenistan will be forced into a compromise regarding the renewal of its gas supplies to Ukraine so as to be able to purchase large-diameter pipes.

Turkmenistan ended gas supplies to Ukraine at the end of February because of failure to agree the question of payment for transportation of the gas from the Turkmen border. Ukraine insisted that its cost (770 rub [rubles]/ 1000 cub m [cubic meters]) be included in the cost of the gas, supplied according to intergovernmental agreement at 800 rubles per 1000 cub. m. Attempts to solve the conflict were unsuccessful.

A renewal of gas supplies to Ukraine could, Ukrgazprom experts believe, follow the signing of an agreement by Turkmenistan, Iran and Turkey for the laying of gas pipelines to supply Turkmen gas to Iran, Turkey and in the future Europe. These pipelines require large-diametre pipes (1420 mm), analogous to those produced by the Pipe Plant at Dniepropetrovsk (Ukraine) and which were used for the Urengoi-Pomary-Uzhgorod Pipeline. According to experts the large diameter pipes, on the production of which Ukraine has a monopoly among the Commonwealth countries, are three times cheaper in Ukraine than abroad, including Turkey, and furthermore the Turkish pipes are of a poorer quality than the Ukrainian.

Under the terms of the agreement gas supplies from Turkmenistan should amount to 15 bn. [billion] cub m. per year, and up to 28 bn. cub m. per year in the future.

National Affairs

National Guard Units Arrive at Moldovan Border

AU2605143492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] As reported by the Press Center of Ukraine's National Guard, several military units of Ukraine's National Guard have arrived in the 50-kilometer zone of special regime in the area of the state border with the Republic of Moldova for further fulfillment of the tasks specified in the Ukrainian Presidential Decree of 17 March 1992.

The maneuver groups of the National Guard regiments and border guards (?will guarantee) the inviolability of the state border of Ukraine [words indistinct].

The commander of the National Guard Major General Volodymyr Kukharets ordered his units to control the zone of special border-zone regulations and procedures in coordination with Border Troops and organs of internal affairs, to ensure the fulfillment by the citizens and officials of the specified regulations and procedures, and to thwart violations of law. In accordance with the regulations on the duties and rights of the personnel of Ukraine's National Guard, measures will be taken to detain offenders who attempt, with weapons in hands, to cross the Ukrainian border in the zone of special regulations and procedures.

A military operations group of the National Guard will supervise the activity of the subdivisions in places of official use.

Organization Protests Russian Decision on Crimea

AU2505174092 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] On 24 May, at 1800, in Kiev's Independence Square, a presentation took place by the Society of Defenders of the Declaration of Ukraine's State Sovereignty—Vitchyzna [Fatherland]. Its leader, Viktor (?Bortnivskyy), said that it was a meeting of protest against the resolution adopted by the Russian parliament where the 1954 act on the transfer of the Crimea from Russia to Ukraine's jurisdiction has been qualified as legally invalid. Viktor (?Bortnivskyy) emphasized that the resolution is an unconcealed encroachment upon the territorial integrity of the Ukrainian state.

The meeting demonstrated the condemnation by our fellow countrymen of Russia's actions regarding a sovereign Ukraine.

Crimean Groups React to Russian Decision

MK2605173092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 May 92 pp 1-2

[Aleksandr Pilat report under "Crimea" rubric: "Russian Parliament Decision Has Aroused Crimeans: No Official Ukrainian Reaction Yet"]

[Text] Following the Russian parliament's denunciation of the transfer of the Crimea to Ukraine in 1954, a session of the Crimea Republic Movement [CRM] Coordinating Council was held 23 May. It adopted a statement which says that in view of the resolution adopted by the Crimean Supreme Soviet 21 May on suspending the implementation of the Crimean citizens' demand for an all-Crimea referendum, the CRM, as initiator of the campaign for a referendum on the Crimea's status, declares that by its decision the Crimean Supreme Soviet has violated the Republic of Crimea Law "On the Referendum" and thus violated the Declaration of Human Rights in respect of Crimean citizens and ignored the will of their electorate as expressed by the 246,000 signatures collected on the referendum petition. Given that the CRM has assumed responsibility to Crimea's citizens for conducting an all-Crimea referendum, it demands: "An extraordinary session of the Crimean Supreme Soviet must be convened 28 May 1992. The agenda must include questions pertaining to the repeal of the decision to suspend the all-Crimea referendum and must officially confirm the legality and inviolability of the Crimean people's right to self-determination."

The CRM also proposes, on the basis of the Republic of Crimea Constitution, that the organs of security, law and order, justice, and the customs service be placed under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Crimea leadership so as to prevent armed formations created both inside and outside Crimea from surfacing on its territory.

To monitor the fulfillment of the Republic of Crimea Constitution, the CRM statement says that the republic's leadership must "provide comprehensive coverage in the mass media of events taking place inside and outside Crimea, to which end the television and radio company and technical communications facilities and channels must remain independent."

The statement stresses the need to place the financial and banking system under the republic leadership's jurisdiction, conclude a treaty with the Russian Federation on the ruble zone in Crimea, and also "set up authorized delegations of the Republic of Crimea to conclude treaties with Ukraine and the Russian Federation and resolve the question of the Republic of Crimea's status within the CIS."

Rifat Chubarov, chairman of the Organization of the Crimean Tatar National Movement and deputy chairman of the mejlis, gave your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent the opposite view. He stated: "The referendum is a road to nowhere. After all, by creating in Crimea a Russian autonomous formation which was then either mistakenly or thoughtlessly confirmed by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, the Crimean Supreme Soviet has ignored our peoples' right to self-determination. By adopting the Constitution, the Crimean Supreme Soviet has also disregarded our legitimate rights. Of course, the Crimean Tatars will not take part in the referendum if one is held. But we hope that the Crimean people's common sense finally prevails and that they either vote against so-called independence or do as others have and boycott the referendum. We regard the Russian Supreme Soviet's repeal of the 1954 act as interference in independent Ukraine's internal affairs and a violation of the accords existing between Russia and Ukraine and of the Helsinki accords preventing the alteration of borders."

Viktor Pantyukhin, cochairman of the Russian movement "Crimean Citizens' Forum," called the referendum "unlawful and absurd." He believes that there should be an international verification of the legality of such a poll.

Yuriy Kromov, chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet parliamentary faction "Democratic Crimea," said: "I have repeatedly stressed and insist today that it is impossible to hold a referendum which includes the wording: 'Do you favor an independent Republic of Crimea in a union with other states?' because then the results could be interpreted any way you like. Let us not deceive ourselves, and especially not the Crimean voters. Do we want to be part of Russia? Then let us ask the voters: 'Do you want a Crimea within Russia or Ukraine, or do you want an independent Crimea?' Then everything will be honest."

Valentin Tambovtsev, chairman of Rukh's Crimea Territory organization, stated: "I want to state with full responsibility that all Ukrainian parties and movements in Crimea are flatly against the referendum. We accept that such a poll could be conducted if Ukraine, Russia, the Crimean Supreme Soviet, and the mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people agree."

Crimean People's Deputy Vadim Kolesnichenko remarked on Crimean television: "Nikolay Bagrov, chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, is very dishonest. He is playing a dishonest game. We are resorting to some strange maneuvers to repeal the decision on holding the referendum and are appealing to the Crimean prosecutor... The CRM leaders tell us that signatures have been collected and that is that. But if tomorrow we collected signatures on a motion to expel everyone with blue eyes, would that mean conducting a referendum on that issue? That is not all. There have been many statements from the Black Sea Fleet Military Council. People are saying that the Black Sea Fleet was and remains Russian and must be the fleet of the

mystical CIS." Kolesnichenko is convinced that the "military should not meddle in politics, they should remain outside it."

Crimean Movement Urges Civil Disobedience

LD2705042492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] The Republican Movement of Crimea today issued an appeal to fellow citizens in Simferopol. According to the NEGA agency, the movement urged the people of Crimea to be ready to take part in acts of civil disobedience if Kiev continues to ignore Crimea's aspirations for independence.

Supreme Soviet Passes Various Draft Laws

LD2305085792 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The draft laws on information, on paying for land and on state of emergency were approved in the first reading and recommended for publishing at the session of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine. The issue of the president's critical remarks on the law on leasehold, was also on the agenda. The president did not agree, in particular, with giving leaseholders the right to choose freely the forms of business activity and proposed to restrict economic planners by giving them the right to create only leasehold enterprises. The Supreme Soviet rejected the president's remark and confirmed the previous wording of corresponding articles. It is also suggested that the president should sign the law on leasehold. The Supreme Soviet will continue its further work in standing commissions and an announcement will be made about the plenary sitting of the session.

Interaction Between State, Enterprises Regulated

AU2605200492 Lvov ZA VILNU UKRAYINU in Ukrainian 9 May 92 p 1

["Ukrainian Presidential Decree on State Orders in Ukraine" issued in Kiev on 4 May]

[Text] To regulate interactions between organs of Ukraine's state executive power and enterprises and organizations proceeding from contemporary requirements for the formation of a free market for items of production and technological utilization, agriculture, consumer goods, and services and to ensure steady functioning of Ukraine's economy, I resolve as follows:

1. To determine that state orders for the supply of products (fulfillment of work and services) must satisfy Ukraine's urgent needs in accordance with the priorities of socioeconomic development specified by Ukraine's Supreme Council. The state allocates financial, material, and technological resources for the fulfillment of orders.

State orders are formed within the possibilities of Ukraine's state budget and are given to enterprises and organizations that use all forms of ownership.

During the period of transition of Ukraine's economy to market relations, state orders are obligatory for fulfillment, provided that production expenditure is compensated for by the customer.

2. The state agreement (contract) is the main document determining the rights and duties of the sides regarding the fulfillment of the state order, including conditions for the preparation and organization of production.

The state provides guarantees for the executors of its orders that the products (work or services) will be sold on the scale and within periods of time stipulated in the state agreement (contract).

3. Those enterprises and organizations that received state orders for supplying products (fulfillment of work or services) may use financial, credit, and other benefits stipulated by the legislation.

4. Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers must prepare, within two weeks, and approve the regulations on state orders in Ukraine.

5. The decree becomes effective on the day of its signing.

L. Kravchuk, president of Ukraine
Kiev, 4 May 1992

Economic Situation Continues To Deteriorate

LD2105232292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Regardless of the fact that the decline in production has somewhat decreased the critical situation in Ukraine's economy remains. Such a conclusion is published in data provided by the Ministry of Statistics of our republic, which summed up the results of economic production in Ukraine for the first three months of the current year. The national product of Ukraine decreased by 18 percent and the produced national income by 20 percent in comparison with the corresponding period. The productivity of labor dropped by 19 percent. The comparison of budget revenues and expenditures is also pitiful. 8.3 billion more rubles were spent than came into the budget. The situation on the consumer market has grown worse. The spending of the population on industrial goods increased fourfold and the indexation of prices which characterized the minimum consumer budget reached 129.2 percent, that is goods increased in price by 30 percent in three months.

Military Plant Converts to Civilian Use

LD2105193192 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1304 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] The great scientific and technical potential of the Kiev scientific production association Slavutich, the only enterprise in Ukraine which specializes in physical and technical acoustics for the military industry, is being reoriented for the design and production of Ukraine's

own machinery and goods for civilian use, which will match the best foreign models.

The association's complex conversion program was discussed at a general meeting of the department of special machinery, cybernetics, and conversion of the Ukraine Academy of Engineering Sciences, held in Kiev. The program specifies the main directions of research, development, and production of new industrial samples of goods which should go into production this year.

Work on medical and agricultural equipment is considered to have top priority. Equipment which used to be produced for military use will be mounted as modern navigation hydroacoustic stations on large tonnage ships or hydrofoils to ensure safe sailing. Such equipment will also be used in marine geological prospecting, and for commercial fishing.

The enterprise intends to produce for medical use ultrasonic and sonic equipment which will be ecologically clean and will not damage the health of human beings: echotomoscopes, stone crushers, inhalers, sterilizers, and other equipment.

Researchers have also developed models of ultrasonic installations for fighting potato bugs and rodents, for cleaning root plants, and sterilizing glass ware. Systems and methods of remote ecological control have also been developed. Computerized musical synthesizers—unthinkable for the former military—are also planned.

50 Percent Gas, 25 Percent Oil Needs Covered

AU2605080792 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1330 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Over the next two to three years, Ukraine will be able to satisfy the needs of its economy and domestic consumption in gas by at least 50 percent and in oil by 25 percent. This is the opinion of Bohdan (?Tolskyy), senior geologist of the Poltava Industrial Gas Administration, who commented upon the results of recent prospecting for mineral deposits in our republic.

Democratic Rebirth Party Holds Congress

AU2505174392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] On 24 May, the third congress of the Party for the Democratic Rebirth of Ukraine completed its work in Luhansk. It adopted political principles of the party, the program for practical actions, and also additions [word indistinct] for its statutes.

A political statement of the third congress and a resolution on the events in the Crimea were adopted. The leading functional organs of the party were elected.

Ukraine's people's Deputy Volodymyr (?Sylenko) became chairman of the party's presidium and coordination council.

TV To Carry News in Both Russian, Ukrainian

LD2605032192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Ukrainian television officially switches to bilingual broadcasting as of today, the NEGA agency reports. The popular TV news program from now on will be in Russian as well as Ukrainian.

Byelarus

First Reading of New Constitution Adopted

LD2205203992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] BELTA reports that the Byelarusian parliament has adopted its constitution, in the first reading. For the first time, the draft constitution declares the new status of Byelarus. The document states that the Republic of Byelarus is a single, unitary, democratic and sociolegal state. As Nikolay Dementey, chairman of the Constitutional Commission stated, the prepared version corresponds in full to constitutional norms and can be presented for discussion of its second reading by the Supreme Soviet.

Army Officers To Take Oath of Allegiance

LD2305172892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0929 GMT 23 May 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Minsk—Byelarusian Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy: By late 1993, 50 percent of officers in the Byelarusian Army will be Byelarusian citizens. Byelarusian Defense Minister Colonel General Pavel Kozlovskiy, speaking on May 22 to a press conference, said that, as of today, 800 of the 7,000 servicemen serving outside Byelarus and willing to continue their army service in the republic have already been transferred to army units in the republic. Speaking of the oath of allegiance to be taken by officers serving in Byelarus, the minister expressed an opinion that the text of the oath of allegiance to the people and Republic of Byelarus, used currently for enlisted men, should be supplemented before it can be used for officers, including himself. Answering questions concerning the establishment of a new military district in Poland along its border with Byelarus and a deployment of two additional divisions in the vicinity of the border, the minister said that he is not concerned about the fact. On May 22, chairman of the Byelarusian Parliament Stanislav Shushkevich arrived in the Brest region to discuss with executives of the local law enforcement agencies issues concerning the operation of customs on the Polish-Byelarusian border.

New Deputy Defense Minister Appointed

LD2505135592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1025 GMT 25 May 92

[By BELTA correspondent Leonid Tratsevskiy—TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 25 May—Aleksandr Tushinskiy, a 47-year-old doctor of technical sciences and electronics engineer, was appointed first deputy minister of defence of Byelarus today. He was formerly general director of the Minsk Computer Engineering Scientific Production Association.

It was announced during the presentation of the new leader to journalists that the main task is to create structures of the defense industry of Byelarus on a qualitatively new basis, linked with the nascent formation of its own armed forces.

Aleksandr Tushinskiy, the first purely civilian specialist in the Byelarus Defense Ministry system, is to tie together and guarantee the mutual interests of the Army structures and the republic's defense enterprises, and also their business links, with colleagues from the CIS states. He will also be charged with not allowing the republic to lag behind in the sphere of military science and of efficiently equipping the Byelarus Army with electronic and other state-of-the-art means of control [upravleniye] and defense.

Dissolution of Parliament Referendum Urged

LD2105025492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 20 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] In Byelarus 370,000 citizens have declared themselves in favor of a referendum on the dissolution of parliament. The question of a plebiscite will be discussed at a routine session of the Supreme Soviet, and its head, Stanislav Shushkevich, does not rule out the possibility of the introduction of presidential rule in the republic.

Shushkevich Briefs Parliament on Economy

LD2705111692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0952 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 27 TASS—Byelarus surely needs some elements of the Chinese economic model to pull the republic out of the present crisis, said Byelarusian Parliament Speaker Stanislav Shushkevich in an interview published in the latest issue of the MOSCOW NEWS weekly.

"We do not have real non-monopolistic and uncorrupted business," he noted. "Regrettably, our business activities are a combination of a series of misunderstandings generated by the old communist and new pseudo-market economies. They also reflect our government's low professionalism," the speaker said.

Speaking of programmes advanced by well-known Russian economists Shatalin and Yavlinskiy and aimed at pulling out the economy out of the crisis, Shushkevich underlined that "we cannot mechanically extrapolate them on our republic, since Byelarus has different realities than those existing in many Russian regions".

The speaker dismissed a possibility for Byelarus to discard the east in favour of the west, noting that "we should be grateful to Russia for oil it sells to us at a suitable price.

"On the other hand," he continued, "it is high time for Byelarus to forget the thoughtless Russian inclination for squandering. It is high time for us to become masters of the republic to the extent we can afford. Speculations about Byelarusian separatism are groundless."

Speaking of his attitude to the idea of a possible territorial re-mapping within the Commonwealth of Independent States, Shushkevich said that "the Byelarusian nation can revive within the present territory.

"I regard the idea of disintegration as absurd and contradictory to our legislation. On the other hand, if a region seeks to begin development on its own, let us provide it with such an opportunity."

Workers Demand Wage Equality From Turkish Firm

PM2605154192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 May 92 p 3

[Correspondent Colonel V. Kovalev report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Byelarusian Workers Declare Strike in Construction of Military Camp. Complaints Against Turkish Firm"]

[Text] Slonim, 21 May—Construction workers began a strike 19 May in Slonim, where the Turkish firm Enka is constructing a military camp for a division being withdrawn from the Western Group of Forces. The strike has been called not by Turks but by our compatriots working under contract with the firm. They have demanded higher wages and better catering and domestic conditions. The Turkish management has already met some of the demands. But it has refused to raise wages to the level of the Turkish construction workers also employed there. It has threatened: Enka will at once cancel the contract with those who do not resume work in the very near future. Dismissal threatens almost 800 workers. It is not yet clear how the conflict which has arisen will be resolved. As for the Turkish construction workers, they have not displayed class solidarity, as we used to say, with the local proletarians and are continuing to work.

Moldova

Parliament Resumes Session on Dniester Issue

AU2605154692 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 26 May 92

[Septimiu Roman report from Chisinau]

[Excerpts] Today the proceedings of the extraordinary meeting of the Moldovan parliament resumed in Chisinau. Yesterday, issues regarding the situation in the republic and the involvement of the Russian Army in the Eastern part of the republic were discussed. [passage omitted]

Today, several draft documents were discussed and the appeal addressed by the parliament of the Republic of Moldova to the parliaments and peoples of the world; the appeal to the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine; the declaration of the Republic of Moldova regarding the legal status of the ethnic, linguistic, and religious minorities in the context of the armed conflict on the left bank of the Dniester River were read. After a recess, the parliament will discuss several draft measures regarding the current situation and the involvement of the Russian Army in the eastern part of the republic.

Today, at 1300 the first team of 100 people will leave to prepare the new place for the deployment the airborne units of Chisinau.

In accordance with the statements of the commander of the regiment, Colonel Aleksey (?Lebediy), the withdrawal will start after 15 June and will end on 1 September. To establish the terms of the withdrawal and the amount of hardware and weapons involved, the commander of the airborne troops, Lieutenant General Yevgeniy (?Potkozin) will arrive to Chisinau in the coming days.

The meeting between Ion Cebuc, first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Moldova and representative of Moldova in Moscow and Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, was set in Moscow. The meeting, which has been postponed several times by General Grachev—latest date for the meeting scheduled for 1630 yesterday, 25 May—was set for 1330 today.

Yesterday and last night, armed separatist groups repeatedly shelled the villages of Gura Bicului in Aneni Noi Rayon, the Press Bureau of the Interior Ministry announces. Fire was opened with firearms and grenade launchers. At 0200, fire was opened from the left banks of the Dniester River at means of transportation near the town of Criuleni. During the night some shelling was reported in the village of Cosnita. Luckily nobody was hurt, the communique reads in conclusion.

The situation in Cocieri is relatively calm, our correspondent reported a few minutes ago.

Yesterday, 25 May, representatives of the local authorities and of the commandments of the sides involved in the conflict held a meeting in the village of Rosii and agreed on a cease-fire.

Today, the regular session of the Supreme Soviet of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic begins its proceedings in Tiraspol. During the meeting, economic and administrative issues will be examined. The issues that are going to be discussed during the session were made public by the Tiraspol Radio Station; however, the Moldova press correspondent learned from reliable sources that taking into consideration the situation created in Moldovan rayons on the left bank of the Dniester River, the issue regarding the social and political situation in the area will also be discussed. Local observers noted the zeal with which the OSTK, that is the United Association of Labor Collectives, are holding meetings within labor collectives during which they discuss the declaration about the independence of the self-proclaimed republic. Thus, it is very likely that during

the current session, the issues regarding the proclamation of the independence of the Dniester Republic and its withdrawal from the composition of the Republic of Moldova will be discussed. Smirnov's appeal yesterday, addressed to the people of the Dniester Region, also leads to the same conclusion. In this declaration the separatist leader requests that—we quote—the independence and sovereignty of the Dniester republic, for which the people in the Dniester region voted at the December 1991 referendum, be sanctioned by law.

We remind our listeners that yesterday Radio Tighina informed the population of the town that the passports issued by the police of the Republic of Moldova are no longer valid and called upon inhabitants to register promptly at the Passport Bureau of the Pro-Separatist Militia. This is an action that resembles a census of the people who are loyal and those who are not loyal to the new regime of the phantom republic, according to the opinion of politicians in Chisinau.

Within this context we can also mention that reprisal detachments that belong to the Dniester battalion and detachments of the militia on the left bank of the Dniester River are seen in action in the town of Dubossary and in the village of (?Dzerzhinskoye). These detachments, which are made up of former recidivists, and their leader in the village of (?Dzershinskoye), Yuriy (?Skikulyak), a previously convicted person, are making up lists with people who are not loyal to the Smirnov authorities and who will be eliminated.

The picture is: discussions in the parliament of the self-proclaimed republic, declarations about independence and sovereignty on the one hand, and on the other hand lists with people who are not loyal, threats, and even elimination.

The competent bodies communicated that three young people who refused to complete military service in the Dniester battalion were shot by the militia on the left bank of the Dniester River on the territory of the Grigoriopol Rayon.

In another sham republic, the Gagauz republic, the Supreme Soviet session was held recently in Comrat. Several issues were discussed, among them issues referring to the social and political situation in the Republic of Moldova and the government of the Gagauz republic, and citizenship. The deputies called for parliamentary solutions to the conflict in the rayons on the left bank of the Dniester River. Likewise, during the session, the head of the phantom republic, Fyodor Manolov was elected.

As far as citizenship is concerned, they endorsed the decision that all the current inhabitants of the sham Gagauz republic are citizens of that republic. Likewise, the free choice of citizenship is stipulated in the respective decision.

Appeal for Support Issued

AU2605200092 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1900 GMT 26 May 92

[Septimiu Roman report from Chisinau]

[Text] The afternoon session of the parliament that held a special meeting concluded with the adoption of the law on the referendum and with an appeal to the world parliaments and nations and an appeal to the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine.

We will now report the text of the appeal to the world parliaments and nations.

The parliament of the Republic of Moldova, which was set up on the basis of democratic elections, on 26 August 1991 proclaimed the Republic of Moldova, a sovereign, independent, and democratic state that is free to decide its present and future, without any outside interference in accordance with the sacred ideals and aspirations of the people on the historic and ethnic territory of its national formation.

From the very beginning, our people's aspirations for freedom and democracy encountered the opposition of the pro-imperial and neo-Bolshevik forces that launched an anti-constitutional rebellion in the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova supported by the armed detachments of Cossacks and mercenaries from Russia.

Moldova is located hundreds of kilometers from Russia, the appeal emphasizes, and has no common borders with it. Despite this, siding with the pro-imperial and neo-Bolshevik forces on the left bank of the Dniester River, the 14th Army, which is under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation, launched an overt military aggression in the eastern rayons of the republic on 19 May this year.

The wide-scale combat actions against the constitutional bodies of state power have already claimed numerous victims among the civilian population and destroyed localities. Thousands of people have to leave their homes.

The 14th Army of the Russian Federation is conducting itself like an occupation force on the territory of a sovereign and independent state disregarding the desire for independence and national rebirth of the Moldovan people. All efforts made by the legal authorities and by public opinion in the Republic of Moldova to solve this artificially created conflict by political means and to implement the accords concluded by the ministers of foreign affairs of the Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Romania, and Ukraine during the four-way meeting in Helsinki and Chisinau have been undermined.

The independence and integrity of the Republic of Moldova are in deadly danger.

The parliament of the Republic of Moldova asks the parliaments of world countries to express—in accordance with the principles of international law—their disapproval of the overt military aggression against the Republic of Moldova; to take action to discourage the aggressor and to support the legitimate demand for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the 14th Army of the Russian Federation and of the detachments of Russian Cossacks and mercenaries from the territory of Moldova; to draw the attention of governments to the need of following the developments of events in the Republic of Moldova and to take the necessary steps at the international level to curb the aggressive military actions to which our country is being subjected.

World peoples have to raise their voice for the defense of the Republic of Moldova and for the defense of its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Faithful to the principles of solving all conflicts by peaceful means, the parliament of the Republic of Moldova reiterates the guarantees for social, economic, and cultural rights and the rights for political freedoms of all citizens of the Republic of Moldova, including people belonging to ethnic, linguistic, and religious minorities in accordance with the provisions of the universal declaration on human rights, of the Helsinki Final Act, and of the Paris Charter for a new Europe.

The appeal is signed by the parliament of the Republic of Moldova.
Chisinau, 26 May 1992

Snegur on 14th Army Units Siding With Dniester

LD2705105492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 27 May 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Moldova's president has told a session of the republic's parliament that there is irrefutable evidence of the participation of 14th Army units in the armed conflict on the side of the Dniester Region Guards. According to evidence in his possession, there are 60 tanks from the 14th Army at the guards' positions in Dubossary. Snegur stressed: It is possible that some of these have been handed over to the guards and that there are no servicemen from the 14th Army in them. However, this is no way absolves the commanders of blame. Snegur says such action gives grounds to talk of flagrant military aggression against Moldova.

Gen Stolyarov on Role of 14th Army in Dniester

LD2605114292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1027 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Tiraspol, May 26 TASS— The maximum that the 14th Army can do in the present situation in the trans-Dniester region is to act in the role of a separating force which would be "the most extreme and undesirable way of action," Major-General of the Air Force Nikolay Stolyarov, chairman of the committee on the work with personnel of the Commonwealth United Armed Forces, told ITAR-TASS today.

"It is not the Army that should have a say here but politicians, and the sooner the better," stressed the general who is now in Tiraspol (an administrative center of the trans-Dniester region) carrying out a mission of the Russian defense minister.

Estimating the activities of the 14th Army Command on the settlement of the conflict in the region, General Stolyarov said that in the present situation "it would be naive to believe that all actions of the Army's command were correct." It did not avoid insufficiently considered steps. "I see the concern of the 14th Army's Command over problems of the trans-Dniester region and its sincere efforts to prevent developing of the armed conflict into a large-scale civil war," the general said.

Now it is important to make a correct analysis of what is going on in the region and give it a well-balanced estimate, according to Stolyarov. There is still a possibility to settle the existing problems in the trans-Dniester region by political and diplomatic means.

Smirnov Warns of Large-Scale Moldovan Attack

LD2605132592 Tiraspol Dniester Radio in Russian 1900 GMT 25 May 92

[Appeal by Igor Smirnov, president of the Dniester Moldovan Republic, made on 25 May—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear fellow countrymen:

While constantly acting the part of peacemaker, for nearly three months now the leaders of Moldova have been carrying out armed aggression against the people of Dniester. The history of mankind knows no examples of armed aggression being perpetrated on its own territory against its own people, but it is precisely that kind of aggression that the Moldovan authorities are carrying out against a people whose only crime is a desire to preserve and protect its political and civil rights.

The leaders of Moldova call us separatists and rebels, and are ready to exterminate everyone simply because we do not share their aspiration for unification with Romania. For several years now we have been trying to convince the leadership of the Republic of Moldova to listen to the opinion of the inhabitants of Dniester. We proposed setting up a free economic zone, then an autonomous republic, and a federal structure. All this is our attempt to preserve Moldova as an integral whole. We do not use force of arms to impose our position on others, while the Republic of Moldova is trying to force us to agree to its version of the future through the blood of our women and children, and of dozens of people of all nationalities.

Our future has been determined by the people at referenda. Today we are defending it in the trenches. We will not be intimidated. If Moldova tries nevertheless to [words indistinct] we will be left with only one option—to confirm by legislation the independence and sovereignty of the Dniester Moldovan Republic, for which the people of the area voted in a referendum back in December 1991.

Moldova is preparing for a large-scale military operation. Mircea Snegur, its president, has to all intents and purposes sanctioned an offensive on the Dniester Moldovan Republic. A considerable amount of military equipment continues to be brought up to the Dniester line of defense, including Romanian equipment.

I call on you at this difficult hour for all of us not to lose courage, willpower, and belief in the success of our struggle. We shall (?prevail) because we are fighting for the right to be free.

[Signed] President Igor Smirnov

Romania Denies Arms Deliveries Reports

LD2505195192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1915 GMT 25 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Dyakov]

[Text] Bucharest, 25 May—The Romanian Ministry of National Defense today rejected reports broadcast on Russia's Radio and referring to sources in the Dniester region leadership, that Romania has recently sent armored equipment to the Republic of Moldova, and is mobilizing reservists to send them to the conflict zone.

These reports, stresses a statement by the Defense Ministry Press Service, are absolutely groundless. Their dissemination has the aim of justifying the interference of 14th Army subunits in the conflict in the left-bank rayons of Dniester on the separatist side.

Romania's Iliescu on Russian-Moldovan Conflict

LD2605171592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1425 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Dyakov]

[Text] Bucharest, 26 May—"I do not think things are moving toward war in Moldova"—this was stated today by Romanian President Ion Iliescu in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. He stressed that the Romanian side had no information that Moldovan President Mircea Snegur intends to declare war on Russia. "His speech at parliament yesterday concerned units of the 14th Army, whose interference in the Dniester conflict was assessed as open aggression against a sovereign state. The leader of Moldova has demanded that the Russian leadership clearly express its attitude to the army's actions and withdraw the troops from the Dniester region."

The tension in the left-bank regions of Moldova, Iliescu continued, is being artificially escalated by certain political forces that are trying to dismember this small state. The elementary rules of international law are being ignored there, as a result of which an explosive situation has emerged in the region. Moldova is an independent state, and it cannot be tolerated that 27 percent of the Russian population dictate to the 40 percent of indigenous citizens. These claims are unnatural and abnormal, and they do not serve the people who live there.

The president did not refute reports that Romania was providing military assistance to Moldova. "We have never made any secret of this," he stressed. "Moldova is a sovereign state, a member of the United Nations, and has every right to create its own national army." He let it be understood that apart from conventional arms, Romania has also sent specialists to the neighboring republic, but this assistance cannot be regarded as military interference in the Dniester conflict. "All the things that have been published on this subject are false," Iliescu added.

Emotions surrounding events taking place in the Dniester region are being whipped up by various nationalist groups and by some mass media both in Romania and in Russia, Iliescu believes. "History has left us problems that should be tackled. But they should be dealt with at the negotiation table in accordance with recognized international norms and agreements. These issues should not be resolved by force. The Romanian leadership does not encourage those who come forward with territorial claims, and it will not give in to them," the president noted. "At the same time, I am worried that a number of senior Russian representatives are supporting separatist tendencies in the Dniester region."

In response to a question, the Romanian head of state emphasized that the present events in Moldova should not affect relations between Romania and Russia. At present we have to note, he continued, that the disintegration of the USSR and the problems of implementing economic reforms in the two countries "are also having an impact on Romanian-Russian economic cooperation." As a result of a fall in industrial output in Russia the Romanian industry is going through serious difficulties. "In spite of all the difficulties that have evolved during recent years, we hope that Russia will remain our reliable partner. I believe that much will change for the better in our relations and that Romania and Russia will continue to cooperate closely in the political, economic and other spheres".

I. Iliescu revealed that the parliament will probably adopt a package of laws this week that are connected with preparations for parliamentary and presidential elections. After this the date for their implementation will be finalized. At the same time, he does not rule out that elections could be postponed until autumn.

Conflicting Sides Sign Cease-Fire Protocol

LD2705082792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0804 GMT 27 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 27 May—A conciliation protocol on a cease-fire and on ending hostilities in the Dniester region has been signed by the conflicting sides. Reporting this, Moldovan Radio added that the sides that signed the document asked politicians "to resolve the conflict by peaceful means in the name of preserving human lives."

According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs press centers in Moldova and Tiraspol, isolated shooting has been noted in the zone of the conflict and the sides are strengthening their positions. Two people were killed by mines in the Dubossary region and one person was injured when a bus was shot at.

The Moldovan parliament in Chisinau is continuing to discuss the conflict situation in the region.

First Group of 14th Army Troops Leave 26 May

LD2705110892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 27 May 92

[Gennadiy Varfolomeyev report from Tiraspol]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The first group of servicemen of the 14th Army Assault Regiment, besieged by inhabitants of Chisinau, left Moldova on 26 May. The situation in the combat zone has remained relatively calm for more than three days, despite isolated shooting incidents.

Kazakhstan

Further Reportage on Nazarbayev's U.S. Visit

Nazarbayev Meets Businessmen

LD2305205692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0145 GMT 22 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shitov]

[Text] New York, 22 May—The establishment and development of business links between U.S. private business and Kazakhstan promise great benefits to both sides. This thought was the leitmotif of Nursultan Nazarbayev's comments at the meetings he held in New York on Thursday [21 May] with representatives of U.S. business circles. The president of Kazakhstan, who is in the United States on an official visit, took part in a meeting of the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and addressed a large group of businessmen at the headquarters of the J.P. Morgan banking corporation.

Addressing his audience, Nazarbayev stressed that the delegation he heads did not come to the United States as suppliants. "We are offering you specific projects," he pointed out. "We are informing you about the opportunities that exist in Kazakhstan. We are creating advantages for foreign investors." The participants in the meeting were all given brochures which had been specially prepared for the visit describing Kazakhstan and giving detailed feasibility studies on 125 varied projects of mutually advantageous business cooperation.

Giving additional explanations, the president pointed out that the republic has already completed "examining and adopting laws necessary for a market economy." Furthermore, at the end of this month discussion should begin there of the new draft constitution which provides for the existence in Kazakhstan of private property. Nazarbayev also stated that "in the very near future" his government would place in a European bank "a quantity of gold and silver to provide guarantees for investments in Kazakhstan."

The question was also raised at the meeting about whether Kazakhstan intends to introduce its own currency or whether it intends to keep the ruble as the monetary unit. "We have close economic links with Russia," Nazarbayev said. "Russia accounts for 65 percent of the goods exported from Kazakhstan and the same proportion of goods imported. In these circumstances and under the crisis conditions when Western states have been trying for a very long time to give assistance to stabilize the ruble, we consider it advantageous for us to remain in the ruble zone. There is one problem: the shortage of ready cash. I think that we will overcome that."

"I must say," the president of Kazakhstan continued, "that we adhere to the position of building the very closest good-neighborly relations with the Russian Federation and maintaining the very best relations between Russia and Kazakhstan. There are no problems at all between these peoples. Therefore, on matters of reform President Yeltsin and I, and our two governments, are conducting a fully coordinated policy."

In conclusion, Nazarbayev expressed deep gratitude to the J.P. Morgan Company, which gave Kazakhstan consultative help in the republic's elaboration of the agreement with the U.S. Chevron Corporation to set up the Tengizchevroil joint enterprise. Thanks to this, the leader of Kazakhstan pointed out, we received a speedy reply from Chevron which was altered considerably to our advantage. The achievement of such a major agreement should strengthen trust in Kazakhstan on the part of Western business.

At the meeting a report was distributed announcing that on 20 May in New York Nazarabayev and Dennis Weatherstone, chief executive officer of J.P. Morgan, signed a memorandum confirming that both sides are interested in further cooperation.

Holds News Conference at UN

LD2405204692 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] The sovereign states which have come into being on the territory of the former USSR must decide their independence in a civilized manner, without bloodshed and wars. Our countries must now feel their independence, but in the future economics and life will of necessity unite this area. In general, I want the CIS to include those who want to be in it. This statement was made by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, who addressed a news conference yesterday at the headquarters of the United Nations.

Before that he spent an hour talking to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali. Nazarbayev announced that a treaty of friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance, a wide-scale interstate agreement, will be signed between Russia and Kazakhstan literally within a week. He said: I consider, and the Russian leadership agrees, that there are no conditions for conflict between Kazakhs and Russians. The two peoples have been living together for many centuries. They have a common destiny and history and there is every reason to say that we have passed on to our children and grandchildren the good relations between two neighboring peoples whose lives are intertwined.

We received this report from TASS. Kazakh radio has already broadcast a recording of Nursultan Nazarbayev's news conference.

Addresses International Council

LD2305155292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0230 GMT 23 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shitov]

[Excerpts] New York, 23 May—President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, who is in the United States on an official visit, spoke at the New York Council for International Relations. In line with unshakeable rules of this organization, the council meeting was held behind closed doors. Journalists were given no official information about the meeting.

As Vladimir Krupenev, assistant to the Kazakh leader, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent, in his speech Nazarbayev acquainted the audience with the situation in the new independent state and with its plans for the future. He told them about the course of wide political, economic, and social reforms. As expected in an audience dealing with international problems he also spoke about the key features of Kazakhstan's foreign policy.

At present everybody is worried about the fundamental orientation of our country, Krupenev explained. Where will it turn: to the East or to the West? The position of principle taken by Kazakhstan is not to join any political blocs and to act as a barrier on the path of the spreading of Islamic fundamentalism. At the same time, one should not forget, that in the historical and cultural respects oriental traditions are closer to the Turki people of Kazakhstan. In economics we are attracted by the developmental model of such countries as Korea and Singapore. We expect, he said, quoting Nazarbayev, that in the course of time Kazakhstan will also become one of the "tigers" in Asia. As for relations with "foreign countries closest to us," our orientation is invariable—Russia. [passage omitted]

After addressing the Council for International Relations Nazarbayev held confidential meetings with representatives of the companies Pirella Group, Creditanstalle, and Cilevic.

The agenda of the Kazakh delegation on the penultimate day of their stay in the United States concluded with a ballet performance at New York's Metropolitan Opera House.

Sums Up U.S. Visit, Departs

LD2405045192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0330 GMT 24 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shitov]

[Excerpts] New York, 24 May—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has completed his first official visit to the United States. On 23 May he flew out from New York's J.F.K. international airport to Moscow, from which he will travel on to Kazakhstan. [passage omitted]

Before flying out of New York, ITAR-TASS interviewed N.A. Nazarbayev on the results of his visit to the United States. The main one, in his view, was the signing in Washington of a number of "highly important documents providing a basis for completely new interstate relations between the United States and Kazakhstan."

President Bush and I signed four documents, N.A. Nazarbayev continued. A trade agreement envisages most-favored-nation terms for business between the United States and Kazakhstan; this is primarily in our interests, of course. Very important, in my view, is the insurance of investments by American companies in Kazakhstan. Our country does not enjoy total stability, and businesspeople do have certain anxieties. If the United States guarantees their investments, this will of course lead to great interest in us. The document on capital investment is also important. Finally, President Bush and I summed up the outcome of our talks in a joint statement.

"Besides," N.A. Nazarbayev continued, "our government signed a number of documents with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. These documents are vital for us as they deal with scientific and technological progress and the elimination of double taxation. There is also a memorandum on the terms of residence of each other's diplomats. I opened our embassy and appointed an interim charge d'affaires, and the United States already has a charge d'affaires in Kazakhstan." During his time in the U.S. capital N.A. Nazarbayev also met with numerous American officials as well as IMF and World Bank leaders. "We will join these organizations", the Kazakh president indicated, noting that "this has been decided in principle." "Very important discussions on technical aid and on setting up a banking system, for example, were held. IMF and World Bank representatives are already in Kazakhstan, working with our specialists."

A highlight among the results of the visit is the contract with the U.S. Chevron corporation to set up a joint venture to pump and sell oil. Not even the entire Soviet Union, let alone Kazakhstan, had previously concluded a deal of such magnitude with the United States, N.A. Nazarbayev stressed. "This is in itself highly important and will quickly provide us with a return, in the sense of convertible currency," he added. "No less important is the fact that we were able to get the contract signed within half a year. Not only that, but we have hired international experts and they have all acknowledged that the contract is up to international standards."

After Washington, the Kazakh delegation visited the largest city in the United States, New York, where N.A. Nazarbayev held a number of meetings with prominent U.S. businesspeople. Discussions focused mainly on the prospects for attracting private capital to the Kazakhstan economy. "I wasn't asking anyone for anything," the President of Kazakhstan stressed. "I presented 125 specific proposals that I had brought with me. Take a look, take your pick, and come and work with us." During this part of the visit agreements were reached on cooperation between Kazakhstan and the Federal Reserve Bank in New York, the Rothschild group, the J.P. Morgan Corporation, and a subsidiary of an Austrian bank.

N.A. Nazarbayev noted that at all of his meetings and talks in the United States he never failed to point out

that the future of Kazakhstan to a large degree depends on the success of Russia's reforms. "We are going to sign a wide-ranging treaty on friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance with Russia," he said. "No matter who I met, I always stressed that you cannot delay the aid that has been announced. The people are waiting. So I kept telling them: You say you cannot afford billions now, but you will have to spend trillions if things revert to confrontation."

Asked whether Kazakhstan will post ambassadors to any other countries apart from the United States, the Republic's president said: "Definitely. The ambassador to Turkey has already been appointed, and those to China and Germany will be named soon. These are countries with which we have already started to work actively in economics."

Does the president have any more trips abroad planned? "Yes," he answered. "The heads of state are going to assemble in Helsinki to sign the Final Act, and I am thinking about being there. In mid-July the heads of about 100 states will be in Brazil for the international environmental congress. There is also a trip to Germany coming up."

Commentary Reviews Nazarbayev's U.S. Visit

LD2305230492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 23 May 92

[Igor Amvrosov commentary]

[Text] As is known, the official visit to the United States by the Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has ended. The reaching of a Kazakhstan-American agreement on the form of Alma-Ata's participation in the fulfillment of the Soviet-American START treaty and on Kazakhstan joining the nuclear non-proliferation treaty are described by observers as the major results of this visit of international importance. A few details of the accords reached at the talks between Nazarbayev and Bush and between Nazarbayev and U.S. Secretary of State Baker are commented upon by Igor Amvrosov:

[Amvrosov] Diplomacy has always been based on compromises and links. The results of the first visit to the United States by the president of Kazakhstan confirm this truth many times over. Judge for yourselves:

An economic agreement between the United States and Kazakhstan was unthinkable without Kazakhstan's agreement to join the nuclear non-proliferation treaty as a non-nuclear state. Nursultan Nazarbayev had enough political sagacity in order to lift demands in good time both for the recognition of Kazakhstan as a nuclear state and for an American nuclear umbrella over Kazakhstan in the event of Kazakhstan acquiring nuclear-free status. In turn, the Americans agreed to Kazakhstan becoming a full party to the Soviet-American START treaty and ratifying it on equal footing with the United States, Russia, Ukraine, and Byelarus. At the same time, the United States agreed that between the ratification by Kazakhstan of the START treaty and and acquisition by this country of full nuclear-free status there should be a certain time gap. In the case of Kazakhstan it will, to all appearances, be a gap of seven years. Nursultan Nazarbayev signed in Washington a special guarantee letter stating among other things Kazakhstan's commitment to remove from its territory all 104 intercontinental ballistic missiles with 1,040 nuclear warheads before the year 2000.

Kazakhstan, just as previously Ukraine, agreed to the American idea of registering the participation of all four nuclear CIS countries in the ratification of the Soviet-American treaty. The Americans have prepared a protocol to the START treaty which is to be signed and ratified together with the treaty by the United States, Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Byelarus.

Here again one must recall the art of compromise. Now a compromise must be reached with Russia and Byelarus. This was stated plainly by representatives of the U.S. State Department. Until recently Russia's stand in this matter has been consistently drifting. Initially Russia opposed in principle any form of ratification of the START treaty by anyone from the former Soviet republics. Afterwards, when the Americans put forward the idea of a protocol to the treaty, Russia was ready to agree to a quadrilateral protocol with the United States taking part. Today Ukraine and Kazakhstan are agreeable to the United States taking part in this protocol. We have no information yet regarding the stand of Russia and Byelarus. Perhaps if Russia objected to a five-sided protocol, it should, in response to the American draft, quickly prepare its own four-sided one. This was not done. In diplomacy, as in other spheres of life, who is not in time misses the boat. Russia, to all appearances, hardly wants to stand in the way of the ratification and the start of the fulfillment of a major international document on reducing strategic nuclear armaments. For this reason the prospects for the signing of a five-sided protocol to the treaty seem quite good.

Nazarbayev on Collective Security Council

LD2405212792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniy Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 24 May 92

[Video report by Petr Orlov; from the "Itogi" newscast]

[Excerpts] President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev paid an official visit to the United States this week. With him was our special correspondent, Petr Orlov, who spoke to the president aboard his returning plane. [passage omitted]

[Begin Nazarbayev recording] If the CIS disintegrates, then a better, more normally functioning organization than what we have at present could be created on the foundation of a collective security council. [end recording]

[Orlov] There was another area where Kazakhstan still has to choose a partner, and that is the creation of its own army. The interest with which Nazarbayev inspected the West Point military academy bears this out. In interviews both at the beginning and at the end of the visit, Nursultan Nazarbayev stressed that Russia remains Kazakhstan's main strategic ally and partner. I think that we have prepared a good grounding for Boris Yeltsin's visit to the United States, Nursultan Nazarbayev said when his aircraft had crossed the border. He added: The main thing is that we have something to say to the people of Kazakhstan. [video shows interview with Nazarbayev aboard plane]

Nazarbayev Briefs Parliament on U.S. Visit

OW2605170992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1547 GMT 26 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The visit to the U.S. is strategically important to us, President Nazarbayev told the parliament of Kazakhstan on May 26 highlighting his visit to the U.S. "The U.S. has become Kazakhstan's reliable partner for a long-term perspective," he added. The main result of the visit, said Nazarbayev, is that Kazakhstan's security was ensured and that guarantees were provided for steady economic development and for mutually-advantageous bilateral contacts.

In Washington, Kazakhstan confirmed its readiness to join the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, "retaining the right to exercise control over the elimination of nuclear weapons located in its territory". The U.S. promised to render Kazakhstan technical assistance in eliminating weapons.

President Nazarbayev does not share the concern of a number of MPs about the loss of the nuclear status. As long as Kazakhstan has nuclear missiles it remains a target for the opposite side's missiles, he said. He also added that it was not Kazakhstan that exercised control over the nuclear weapons located in its territory. The treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons gives Kazakhstan the status of a party that has the right to control the actions of other signatories to the treaty. Besides that, Kazakhstan is a peaceful state and its "international image" must be nuclear-free.

In terms of trade and economy, Kazakhstan was granted the most- favoured nation status; guarantees were provided for the capital investments in the Kazakh economy and environmental protection agreements were signed.

Nazarbayev said that during his visit, American business quarters were offered 125 projects. The most remarkable of them is the joint project with the Chevron oil corporation.

Further on Briefing

OW2605223692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2059 GMT 26 May 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Kazakhstan has acquired the U.S. as a good partner for a long period of time. The visit has a strategic importance for us", President Nursultan Nazarbayev stated at a session of the republican Supreme Soviet Tuesday [26 May] making comments on the results of his visit.

According to the head of state, two global tasks were solved during the visit: the assurance of Kazakhstan's security and the confirmation of the development of the bilateral mutually beneficial relations, and the most favored nations status in trade for Kazakhstan has the specific significance for achieving these goals.

President underlined that in Washington Kazakhstan confirmed its readiness to join the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons [NPT] "retaining the right to control the destruction of nuclear weapons deployed on the territory of the republic". Nursultan Nazarbayev said that the U.S. promised to render technical assistance in destroying the weapons.

The parliamentarians expressed their concern on Kazakhstan's security due to the loss of the nuclear power's status of the republic. Nazarbayev underlined that the real security of Kazakhstan will not suffer due to the joining to the NPT treaty. The President believes that Kazakhstan is a peaceful state and "the international image" of Kazakhstan must be non-nuclear. According to him, the republic must not be a bugaboo threatening all other republics".

Nazarbayev noted that during the negotiations with the International Monetary Fund the principal course of Kazakhstan on the developing of market relations was approved. The IMF's experts helped to develop a plan on activation and introduction of the market relations in the republic. Nazarbayev says that the U.S. will open an access to the modern technologies which will help to overcome the crisis and to redirect the economy from natural resources exploitation to the development of industry.

President stated that the current crisis can be overcome, and the development of economy will bring great results only due to the stable situation in Kazakhstan. He stands for the strengthening of the international relations, saying that the parliament must do its utmost in this diraction. The President also noted that several enterprises are aggravating the situation setting forward the demand on the raising of salaries. He declared that these demands are inadmissible without the increase of a real output of the working people.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Proposes Joint Military Control

OW2305164792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 23 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkmenistan proposes to Russia to have all military units deployed on its territory under joint control, its President Saparmurad Niyazov told the commanders of forces deployed locally in Ashkhabad on Saturday [23 May]. According to Niyazov, the draft treaty on mutual defense and on the status of forces on the territory of Turkmenistan, which is being discussed by Turkmenistan's delegation with the Russian government, contains this point.

Turkmenistan also suggests that the "joint troops" should be financed jointly. Its own contribution to financing will be the granting of land for servicemen's quarters and for test sites, the ensurance of social security and municipal services for them.

The Command of the armed forces will be subordinate to the Russian and Turkmenian Ministries of Defense.

Military units will not interfere in Turkmenistan's internal affairs. Officers from the "joint forces" will maintain the citizenship of their own states.

According to Niyazov, these fundamental provisions were coordinated with the Russian government and the signing of the treaty (of 5-year duration) can take place in the near future.

President Niyazov Reports on Parliament Session

LD1905154792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 19 May 92

[Report by correspondent K. Babayev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A session of the parliament of Turkmenistan has concluded its work in Ashkhabad. President Saparmurad Niyazov delivered a report after a debate on a number of draft laws. He stressed that the republic guarantees to an equal degree, the rights and freedoms of citizens of all nationalities and he spoke about the program for the social protection of the population. In the coming three years, the increase in prices for main foodstuffs will be held in check, and from July, average monthly salaries will increase by 2.1 times. Energy prices will not be increased. The only thing is that drivers will have to bring their passports with them to filling stations.

The president explained the reason why the republic did not sign the treaty on collective sovereignty in Tashkent is that a military agreement must be signed first to determine the status of the troops deployed on Turkmen territory. The strength of the National Guard will be 2,000 men. Over approximately five years, the republic intends to carry out the transition to market relations.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1431 GMT on 19 May, in an item transmitted via KYODO, adds: "On Tuesday [19 May], the majlis (parliament) of Turkmenistan began to form a commission for presidential election scheduled for June 21. Turkmenistan's current leader Saparmurad Niyazov is the only registered candidate.

["The deputies adopted, at the first reading, the draft law on Turkmenistan's procurator's office which says, among other things, that procurators have no right to combine their activity with the work in elected bodies. Neither can they be active in political parties or public organizations pursuing political goals."]

Commission Formed for Presidential Election

OW1905182392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 19 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [19 May], the majlis (parliament) of Turkmenistan began to form a commission for presidential election scheduled for June 21. Turkmenistan's current leader Saparmurad Niyazov is the only registered candidate.

The deputies adopted, at the first reading, the draft law on Turkmenistan's procurator's office which says, among other things, that procurators have no right to combine their activity with the work in elected bodies. Neither can they be active in political parties or public organizations pursuing political goals.

Niyazov Calls For Iranian Reconstruction Aid

LD2505224392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] The president of Turkmenistan, when receiving the credentials of the Iranian ambassador on 25 May, referred to the historical ties between Iran and Turkmenistan and called for Iran's participation in the reconstruction of Turkmenistan's industries and factories.

According to an IRNA report, Mr. Sapamurad Niyazov, the Turkmen president, said: We have long borders with Iran. We believe that these borders have turned into frontiers of peace and fraternity today.

Referring to the numerous agreements between that republic and Iran, he described the agreement on joining the Iranian and Turkmen railways as important.

According to this report, Mr. Baqeri-Moqaddam, the first Iranian ambassador in Ashkhabad, presented his credentials to the Turkmen president at a ceremony on 25 May.

Armenia

Presidential Adviser on Aid, Russian Role

OW2505164992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 25 May 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking on Armenian television, President Ter-Petrosyan's adviser on problems of political analysis, Zhirayr Liparityan, described the thrust of Armenian detachments from Nagorno-Karabakh to Goris in Armenia via Lachin as "an attempt to open a channel for humanitarian assistance, not an attempt to seize territory. If any interested states, including Azerbaijan, wish to take control of this channel," he went on, "Armenia will be raising no obstacles to this. If they refuse to do so, the task will have to be handled by ourselves."

Liparityan believes that, judging by its policy towards Armenia, Nakhichevan, and other regions, "Russia is not going to lose control of the situation." In a sense, he continued, "Russia is taking advantage of internal conflicts, in particular of the one in Nakhichevan. We have had a chance to see that it has enough means at its disposal to maintain its influence in Transcaucasia."

This is a tense situation, Liparityan believes, but it should ultimately be settled down by Armenian-Nakhichevan negotiations on border issues. "We are willing to sign a multilateral agreement with the participation of the Nakhichevan Republic on the basis of President Ter-Petrosyan's proposal of May 20," he said. "It should be made clear to Turkey that our program is aimed at ensuring security for the citizens of Armenia. We are not pursuing any aggressive aims."

Aid Detailed

PM2605145392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 May 92 Morning Edition p 1

[PRO-ARMENIA report in "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" column: "'Humanitarian Corridor' Is Lifeline for Nagorno-Karabakh"]

[Text] Three hundred tonnes of flour, more than 100 tonnes of fuel, medicine, and infant food, plus 120 tonnes of cement have now arrived in Nagorno-Karabakh via the Lachin "humanitarian corridor" from Armenia.

The reconstruction of wrecked buildings has begun in Stepanakert. Drinking water is now being received in every home in the city from the repaired water collection facilities. However, there is still no light or gas, which have been cut off by the Azerbaijan authorities.

UN Security Council Mission Arrives for Visit

Meets With President

NC2305185692 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1830 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] The fact-finding mission formed by the UN Security Council that held a series of meetings with Armenian authorities in Yerevan was received by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan in the evening of 22 May.

In expressing satisfaction at the prompt response to Armenia's request to send UN representatives to the region, the president put forward Armenia's position on matters under consideration. This envisages the broad involvement in the stage by stage resolution of the Karabakh conflict of international organizations and specific countries that have proven the impartiality of their mediation mission.

In enumerating the package of measures to stabilize the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, Levon Ter-Petrosyan also referred to relations with Nakhichevan, an issue raised only recently. He stressed that the Nakhichevan problem is fabricated and pursues certain objectives. Armenia has no contentious problem with Nakhichevan and is ready to sign a bilateral treaty this very day to transform the common border into a zone of security. Third parties are operating in Nakhichevan for whom the destabilization of the situation is convenient, which could have serious consequences.

Referring to the opening of a land communications corridor between Armenia and Karabakh, Levon Ter-Petrosyan said that it was the result of the four-year blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh. This, coupled with intensifying military operations, has deprived the population of the minimum needs for life support. This corridor must operate unimpeded. The control of the corridor as well as the security of the population on the ethnic borders could and should be ensured by international peacekeeping forces.

Talks Summarized

LD2405164192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0840 GMT 24 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 24 May—"We had an exceptionally effective exchange of views and received a sufficient amount of information." This is how Francesk Vendrell, leader of special UN mission in the Caucasus on behalf of the UN Security Council, summarized his three-day stay in Armenia.

"We came here to study facts connected with the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh," he said. Vendrell, who is the head of the UN Department for Special Political Affairs, declined to make any evaluations or draw conclusions because he has been here only on a factfinding and familiarization mission. The UN mission, which

includes representatives of the UN Children's Fund and the World Health Organization, held a series of talks with the leaders of Armenia and held meetings with the Defense Ministry, the republican State Board for Refugees, the Armenian Red Cross, and representatives of Armenian sociopolitical organizations.

Vendrell said during a meeting in the Armenian parliament that the mission he heads would do its best to combine the efforts of all international organizations and individual states concerned in the search for ways to a political settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis.

The UN representatives left for Baku today.

Nagorno-Karabakh Official on Peace Prospects

PM2505101392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 May 92 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Levon Melik-Shakhnazaryan, member of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium and leader of the Parliamentary Commission on External Relations, by Natalya Sidorova under the "Opinion" rubric; date, place not given: "Nagorno-Karabakh Dreams of Peace and Tranquility"]

[Text] [Sidorova] Mr. Melik-Shakhnazaryan, the Karabakh conflict has evolved into outright combat operations. Does this mean that a peace settlement is now impossible?

[Melik-Shakhnazaryan] It is perfectly possible to separate the warring sides. This can be done either by UN "blue helmets", or by CSCE troops whose creation is already under discussion, or by CIS peacekeeping forces. We have no grounds to mistrust any of the three.

Then international posts of observers could be set up to oversee compliance with a cease-fire accord. At the same time humanitarian corridors to Nagorno-Karabakh should be opened, and the siege lifted as one of the forms of military aggression. Rail and road transport lines need to opened as well, and the safety of civil aviation flights ensured. This would be the first step on the road to cooperation between the two neighboring states. We have to trade with Azerbaijan, just as Azerbaijan has to trade with us. We do not have any land or air routes except through Azerbaijan.

[Sidorova] How do you perceive the political status of Nagorno-Karabakh? After all, no one has yet recognized the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic...

[Melik-Shakhnazaryan] Azerbaijan will never again execrise jurisdiction over the territory of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. Azerbaijan must renounce its claims on Karabakh. Having proclaimed independence, we renounced our own age-old dream of reunification with Armenia. And this sacrifice was made for the sake of the interests of the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples, so that war should not wash in a sea of blood across the whole region. Azerbaijan is losing us, Armenia is not acquiring us, and we are losing a dream.

On the other hand, there is some moral satisfaction. Azerbaijan does not see us as part of Armenia, Armenia does not see us as part of Azerbaijan. And we, acquiring independence, rid ourselves of the national yoke. This compromise seems to me to be the most acceptable today.

[Sidorova] What do you expect from the international conference on Nagorno-Karabakh scheduled in Minsk for June?

[Melik-Shakhnazaryan] I would like it to clarify when and with whose help military operations can be stopped. We do not want to fight, but we must, will, and can defend our borders. However, we would like to do this using political "weapons." I think that this can be done at a high level like the CSCE. However, the CSCE's current approach does not presage anything good. The option offered to us under Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's formula, according to which representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh's Armenian and Azerbaijani communities should participate in talks, does not suit us. There is no Armenian community in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, there is an Armenian population and other communities, just as, let us say, there is no Russian community in Novgorod, where there is a Russian population. And only the leadership of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, or people empowered by it, can represent Karabakh today in forums at any level. We are not self-appointed, we were elected by the inhabitants of Nagorno-Karabakh.

We have proposed our own option for participation in the international conference in Minsk; it will be attended by the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic leadership and a representative of the Azerbaijani minority as a member of our delegation. We are not inviting representatives of all the nationalities living in Karabakh, but we are meeting the Azerbaijani community halfway since we are in a state of war with Azerbaijan. At the moment it is not known whether our option will be accepted, but we believe in the collective wisdom of the states.

[Sidorova] Is it possible in today's situation to talk of a cease-fire and the start of talks with Azerbaijan?

[Melik-Shakhnazaryan] There has been a cease-fire more than once already, but the truce was violated. The preliminary condition, after whose fulfillment we will begin talks with Azerbaijan on the elaboration of a cease-fire mechanism, is the reconnection of telephone and telegraph communications and electricity to Nagorno-Karabakh. In addition, the leaders of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan should simultaneously declare their desire to sit around the negotiating table.

At the moment there are no such talks, there are no commitments by the conflicting sides. All firing positions that are sowing death should be neutralized. I have

more than once conveyed to the Azerbaijani side the idea that for us not to worry Shusha, Shusha should not worry us. How is this not a formula for cease-fire? There is an Azerbaijani village in Shaumyanovskiy Rayon whose inhabitants have never engaged in military operations, and accordingly, have not be subjected to attacks by the Armenians. This village lives and prospers, and people till the land and sow corn.

[Sidorova] What is your attitude to intermediary missions, in particular that of Russia?

[Melik-Shakhnazaryan] I think that Russia, having long-established ties with the Transcaucasus, would not wish to lose them or its influence. However, today Iran has also developed quite energetic diplomatic activity in the region—nature abhors a vacuum. We have little interest in the political games of the big states. We are ready to accept intermediary efforts by any country which are directed at ending combat operations in Karabakh. We welcome the intermediary missions of Iran, Russia, and the CSCE. We perceive the United Nations as the most disinterested intermediary. The ideal option would be for it to determine who is the aggressor and who is the victim, to apply against the aggressor the measures envisaged by the UN Charter, and to send in the "blue helmets" to separate the hostile armies.

Nagorno-Karabakh Press Service Reports Attacks

NC2605193692 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1850 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Supreme Soviet press service has reported that Grad mounts were used to shell the town of Martuni, along with artillery and tanks, in the early morning of 26 May. Fire came from the military bases in Amiranlar, Mukhanly, and (Propotkino). The destruction is being assessed.

Karachinar and Manashid villages came under massive shelling from heavy tanks and surface-to-air missile mounts. Azerbaijani Army units are now using these missiles in Shaumyanovskiy Rayon, where the shelling has caused destruction.

A tremendously destructive but unidentified missile type has been used to fire on Mardakert town from the direction of Agdamskiy Rayon; a group of experts has gone to Mardakert.

While Russian Defense Minister Grachev declares that CIS troops, with all their military hardware, are being withdrawn from Azerbaijani territory, reliable sources close to the CIS Army leadership say that fully armed tank and artillery regiments and their ammunition stocks have been handed over to the Azerbaijani Army. This will only escalate the military operations in Nagorno- Karabakh.

Prime Minister on Nakhichevan Position

LD2705115192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] The Armenian prime minister has said that his country has no territorial ambitions on Nakhichevan. Gayik Arutyunyan, the prime minister of Armenia, in a meeting with the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Yerevan, declared that his country is ready for the presence of Iranian and international observers on the borders of Armenia with Nakhichevan.

He said that Armenia is ready to turn the existing borders into frontiers of peace and friendship through an agreement with Nakhichevan. In the said meeting our country's charge d'affaires informed the Armenian prime minister of the principled stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the need for using peaceful means and refraining from military action.

Ministry Issues Statement on Nakhichevan

LD2705102692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0930 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Yerevan, 27 May (ARMENPRESS-TASS)—"Incessant shelling from the Azerbaijani side has in the last few days resulted in 12 dead and 30 injured" inhabitants of Armenian villages situated on the border with Nakhichevan. This is stated in an Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement issued today in connection with the acute deterioration in the situation in the region. "The Azerbaijani side is provoking military action on this sector of the border in order to justify possible interference by a third state in the increasingly alarming events in the region," the document notes.

Armenia declared its readiness to immediately conclude with the Nakhichevan Republic a treaty on all-round cooperation with the aim of turning their common border into a secure zone. "It now rests with the Nakhichevan side," the document states.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry appeals to the world community to exert influence on the course of events in the region, in order "to exclude a dangerous turn toward an increasingly heated armed conflict."

Ministry Dismisses Nakhichevan Announcement

LD2505085892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 25 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Armenian Ministry of Internal Affairs has dismissed the public announcement by Geydar Aliyev, the chairman of the Supreme Majlis of the Nakhichevan Republic, that he has issued instructions for a unilateral end to firing on Armenian territory, as not corresponding to reality. This is reported by the DR-press

agency. At the same time, Geydar Aliyev himself said on Sunday, 24 May, that Armenians are getting weapons from the Russians and then using them against the people of Nakhichevan.

According to IRNA, in a telephone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Aliyev said that his republic did not want the war to continue and that it favored a peaceful settlement. Velayati gave an assurance that Iran would continue to assist the population of Nakhichevan and the rest of Azerbaijan.

Nakhichevan Fails To Attend Joint Talks

NC2605192592 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] The situation is like this in the republic's border regions:

Tavushskiy Rayon: Last night's shelling set the rayon's canning factory warehouse on fire. The rayon's Soviet Executive Committee has reported sporadic gunfire in the border zone. Some 1,000 hectares of land remain untended and the rayon is also without electricity.

Araratskiy Rayon: Yeraskhavan was again shelled last night from the direction of Nakhichevan. The rayon's Soviet Executive Committee told us that this morning's scheduled talks among the Araratskiy Rayon leadership and adjoining Nakhichevan rayons had not started at 1330 because the Nakhichevan side was absent.

Kapanskiy Rayon: Davit-Bek village came under an Azerbaijani attack which was supported by artillery fire. Two shepherds and a herd were carried away.

Iran Ready To Dispatch Obsevers to Border Area

OW2705023892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2143 GMT 26 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Iranian leadership has voiced readiness to send observers without delay to the border between Armenia and the Nahichevan Autonomous Republic, which is part of Azerbaijan. This was announced by the Armenian President's Senior National Security Adviser Ashot Manucharyan on Tuesday [26 May].

He recalled that the request to dispatch Iranian monitors had come from Armenia's leadership and had been approved by the Chairman of Nahichevan's Supreme Majlis Geydar Aliyev.

Mr. Manucharyan emphasized that the sides did not object to the participation in a mediatory mission on settling the Azero-Armenian conflict of representatives from the other countries," which had lately demonstrated an unbiased and neutral position, concerning the Karabakh problem, and whose participation is not opposed by Armenia, Azerbaijan, or Iran".

Presidential Adviser on Multi-Party System

OW2505164792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 25 May 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "There is practically no presidential rule in Armenia so far and no proper government mechanism for it, nor has the presidential staff itself been completely formed," Vagan Papazyan, an adviser to the Armenian President, told our correspondent. "We have introduced presidency but still haven't got rid of the old government structures."

"At this moment," Papazyan continued, "no political party is capable of proposing a program for surmounting the crisis which the government can accept". He thought the most constructive contribution any party could make to the work of surmounting the crisis was taking an active part in the discussion of programs proposed by the government and making concrete proposals in the course of it.

Papazyan said today's ruling party, the Armenian National Movement, of which he is a board member, took the view that one way to make an effective political reform was to disband the present-day parliament and have a new one elected. However, the party has not yet worked out a definitive position on the matter. Papazyan thinks a new parliamentary election will make it possible to form a legislative body on a multi-party basis as such. In his view there is as yet no civilized multi-party system in Armenia, the reason for which, he believes, lies in the absence of clear-cut social stratification in the republic owing to the grave economic situation and the social changes that have taken place. All parties in Armenia, he pointed out, have virtually the same ideological basis—nationalism, which makes the differences between them inessential. Papazyan is also concerned about the fact that "members of the former communist elite are actively joining new parties in an attempt seeing this as a way to exercise their influence on political life in Armenia."

Azerbaijan

Acting President Makes Appeal on Tasks, Goals

LD2305134292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Isa Gambarov, acting president of the Azerbaijan republic and chairman of the Azerbaijan parliament, has made an appeal to the people. Our correspondent in Baku, Azer Khalilov, will tell us what he said:

[Khalilov] In this appeal, Gambarov said that the people had won a victory over the dark forces of reaction represented by the former Communists, thanks to loyalty to democratic principles. The Popular Front, says the appeal by the parliamentary chairman, understands all the responsibility which it has undertaken.

The parliamentary chairman considers his primary tasks to get the state of Azerbaijan out of its economic, political, and social crisis and defend Azerbaijan from external aggression.

He reported that all legislative power had been transferred to the Meli Majlis. He considers it appropriate to hold the presidential elections on 7 June. Isa Gambarov also noted in his appeal that the syndrome of absence of authority paralyzing society must be overcome.

He noted that the political crisis could be resolved only if the military problems at the front were succesfully resolved. Today the most essential thing, the chairman of the Azerbaijan parliament noted, was to rebuff Armenia's aggression against sovereign, independent Azerbaijan and to get back the territory occupied by the enemy. In order to give a worthy rebuff to the aggressor, he noted, it is necessary to strengthen statehood and put an end to anarchy. He noted that it was also necesary to restore law and order and to remove the weapons illegally held by the population.

NATO's Help in Nagorno-Karabakh Requested

LD2605191592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1803 GMT 26 May 92

[By unidentified AZERINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Baku, 26 May—"Azerbaijan places great hopes on international organizations (the United Nations, CSCE, NATO) which could restrain the aggressor and attain a just settlement to the conflict," Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet Chairman Isa Gambarov says in a message addressed to NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner, the text of which has been circulated in the media via AZERINFORM.

Gambarov, who is curently Azerbaijan's acting president, noted that NATO's statement on the critical situation in Nagorno-Karabakh was met with profound satisfaction in the Republic. He recalled that the bloody conflict was provoked by Armenian nationalism and the pursuit of groundless territorial claims to Azerbaijan.

"Having restored our independence," the head of parliament writes, "we took a course toward equal cooperation with all countries and international organizations. Azerbaijan has no territorial claims to other countries and will not interfere in somebody else's internal affairs." The Republic requires a similar attitude to itself, Gambarov concluded in his message to the NATO secretary general.

Ex-Nagorno-Karabakh Communist Official Arrested

LD2405230592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 24 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Karabakh news agency, quoting reports from Baku radio and other mass media of Azerbaijan, reports the arrest in Baku of persons suspected, I quote, of subversive work in favor of neighboring states. Among those arrested is Boris Kevorkov, former first secretary of the Nagorno-Karabakh oblast committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, who is charged with coordination of sabotage and intelligence activity in favor of a third country. In the Azerbaijani capital a witchhunt has begun, the Karabakh news agency believes.

Ministry on Armenian Nakhichevan Accord Plan

LD2305074992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0658 GMT 23 May 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Viktor Shulman for TASS]

[Text] Baku May 23 TASS—The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Friday [22 May] night, condemning the Armenian leadership's intention to conclude an agreement on the normalisation of relations with the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic.

The statement, circulated by AZERINFORM, points out that, in accordance with the norms of international law, relations between a neighbouring state and a constituent part of Azerbaijan should be normalised within the framework and at the level of official bodies of the republic.

"Any other form of the suggested settlement of relations is none other than an attempt to camouflage the aggressive annexationist aspirations of the Armenian leadership and pursues the aim of misleading the world community," the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry statement emphasises.

The world has repeatedly witnessed Armenia's violations of accords on a cease-fire and on a settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict by peaceful means, the statement points out.

Armenia Accused of Using 'Toxic Agents'

LD2605190792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1737 GMT 26 May 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Sabir Mirzoyev for TASS]

[Text] Baku May 26 TASS—Three people were killed and eight wounded over the last [words indistinct] a result of shelling of the Azerbaijani villages of Todan and Shefek by Armenian guerrillas.

The Azerbaijani Defence Ministry said shells which destroyed several houses in the town of Fizuli on Tuesday [26 May] were charged with toxic agents.

Further on Chemical Weapons Use

LD2205200792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 22 May 92

[Report by M. Mamedov from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Armenian armed formations continued to shell villages in the Sharuskaya and Sadarak rayons of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic today. Nevertheless, despite this, soldiers of the national army and local self-defense units succeeded in taking the commanding heights from the adversary and in bringing about a turning point in the continuing military actions. There are, however, depressing reports also: today, apart from conventional rockets and shells, chemical weapons were once again used by Armenia. This naturally gave rise to serious concern on the part of of the leadership of the autonomous republic and of medical workers. The seriously injured were sent on a special flight to Turkey today.

Local observers note the concentration of CIS troops on the other side of the border. It should be said the position of Russia in this conflict is causing perplexity, to put it mildly, in Azerbaijan. While representatives of the CSCE, the United States, France, Iran, and Turkey have described the actions of the neighboring republic as overt aggression, Russian officials declare their support for Armenia and its expansionist plans. What assessment then, in this case, is made of the Karsskiy treaty on the status of Nakhichevan which was concluded in 1921 by Russia and Turkey, under which these states are the guarantors of the territorial integrity of that region?

At a session of the Milli Majlis, sharp criticism was also levelled at Russian television, which is spreading misinformation about Kurds in Azerbaijan. This is seen as a provocation and as another ideological and political attack on the republic's territorial integrity.

Aliyev on Chemical Weapons

LD2405220892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Correspondent Azer Khalilov in Baku reports that, according to information from the press center of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 24 May was not a quiet day either in rayons of the Nakhichevan Republic bordering Armenia or in Karabakh.

[Khalilov] As is known, about a week ago Armenian troops crossed the state border of Azerbaijan and entered the territory of Sadarakskiy rayon of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Supreme Majlis, said in a telephone conversation with me late in the evening on 23 May that Armenian troops had used chemical weapons against the civilian population of neighboring Sharurskiy rayon, which also borders Armenia. According to a report from the press center of the Ministry of Defense, during the three days of fighting in Sadarakskiy and Sharurskiy rayons of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, the number of dead rose to more than 20 and the number of wounded totaled 100. The situation also is extremely difficult in Zangelanskiy, Kubatlinskiy, Kazakhskiy, Lachinskiy, and Fizulinskiy rayons of Azerbaijan, which also border Armenia.

The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan has reported that on the morning of 24 May Kurdish villages in Lachinskiy rayon still were being shelled from missile and artillery installations from both Shushinskiy rayon, which is occupied by Armenian troops, and Gorisskiy rayon in Armenia. The Ministry of Defense reports that Kurdish guerrilla units have made daring attacks on the positions of Armenian armed formations deployed near the rayon center, the town of Lachin.

Turkey To Provide Medical Aid to Nakhichevan

LD2205125992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1141 GMT 22 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara May 22 TASS—The Turkish Government has decided to extend medical help to Nakhichevan, an autonomous republic in Azerbaijan. The Turkish Cabinet of Ministers on Thursday [21 May] approved the proposal to send the wounded from Nakhichevan to a hospital in the city of Erzurum. The cabinet also decided to send medical personnel to Nakhichevan to treat the wounded on the spot.

Minister of State Akin Gonen told the press later that the cabinet had discussed the situation in Karabakh, Nakhichevan, Bosnia and Hercegovina. It was noted that Turkey had made all kinds of efforts except military to put an end to bloodshed in these regions.

Asked whether Turkey is likely to send troops to Nakhichevan, Gonen said it was possible only if all diplomatic efforts proved ineffective.

Aliyev Remarks on Impact of Turkish Role

TA2205185592 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] The fighting that started with the Armenian attack on the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic has lost its intensity. Nakhichevan President Gaydar Aliyev said that this to a great extent is the result of the efforts exerted by Turkey. Suleyman Cil reports from Nakhichevan:

Aliyev said the fact that the Armenians have reduced the intensity of their fire is the result of the support extended by Turkey and its public opinion to Nakhichevan. He added that Turkey's support has influenced the world public in favor of Nakhichevan. Aliyev said that he asked to meet with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and that the talks will continue.

The fighting over the hills of (Mil) and Kirmizilar is continuing intermittently and with light weapons. Furthermore, we have observed that Armenian control over the hills of Nakhichevan is diminishing gradually. The firing from the Armenian side has decreased greatly from the level of previous days.

A group of some 3,000 women held a march and a rally to protest the Russian Federation's attitude toward the attacks against Nakhichevan. The group gathered at the grave of Azerbaijani poet Huseyin Cavit and then proceeded toward the 76th Russian Brigade. The women, whose request to meet the brigade commander was rejected, delivered speeches and chanted slogans condemning Russia and Armenia. They gathered later in front of the Presidential Palace and expressed support for Aliyev.

Addressing the women, Aliyev said that every measure is being taken, and will continue to be taken, to protect the country. He added that there is no need for concern. Aliyev later referred to the initiatives and support of the Turkish Government and his recent talks with Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel. The crowd then chanted expressions of gratitude to Turkey.

Meanwhile, the Popular Front of Nakhichevan has issued a communique entitled "An Appeal to the Turkish People." The communique describes Armenian attacks and appeals to the Turkish people to send medical aid and food. The communique also requests that the injured be treated in Turkey.

A delegation headed by Omer Ersun, the Foreign Ministry's director general of the Caucasus and Balkan countries, is today touring the region where the fighting is taking place. The delegation met with the civilians as well as with militia. The delegation is expected to meet with Aliyev in the evening.

Aliyev Comments on Armenian Talks, Tension

NC2405092092 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] In a statement to an AZERINFORM correspondent, Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR] Supreme Assembly, said the following: The fire which has been directed continuously at the NAR from the neighboring republic during the last five days must be halted so that the talks the Armenian president has proposed on normalizing the situation on the NAR-Armenia border can begin.

Viewing the reasons for the new wave of tension in relations between the two Caucasus republics, Aliyev said that the so-called calls made by the Armenian side for talks conflict with the heedless Armenian armed attacks on the NAR's Sadarak Rayon. Aliyev noted that the neighboring republic has ignored the international position that the use of force, including military operations, to expand aggression against Azerbaijan and unilaterally change the status of Karabakh and the border of NAR or any other territory is impermissible.

Aliyev also noted the importance of Turkey's steadfast approach as the guarantor of the NAR's security in accordance with the 1921 Kars Agreement. He said that furthermore, NAR leaders are making an effort not only to end the military operations on the border with Armenia, but also to halt the war the neighboring republic has started in Azerbaijan. Aliyev stressed that he called President Ter-Petrosyan several times to convey his views. But he said that it seems that calls made for an approach based on common sense have been futile. In fact, the latest Armenian attack on Sadarak Rayon took place in full view of Russian military units.

Aliyev Orders Troops Not To Respond to Fire

TA2305125392 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1000 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, president of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, has said that they do not want war and that they want the clashes to stop. He said he ordered the Nakhichevan troops not to respond, even if the Armenians fire.

At a news conference, Aliyev said he received information that the Armenians positioned a new gun on a hill near Sadarak, but that shots have not been fired from there yet.

Aliyev said he had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel this morning in which Demirel told him that the United States and many other countries condemned the Armenian attacks, thanks to the steps taken by the Turkish Government. Aliyev told Demirel that they need help because of the blockade imposed by the Armenians. He asked Demirel to speed up the $100-million loan extended by Turkey.

Aliyev spoke about the latest developments in the region on television last night. He criticized Iran for its indifference to the Armenian attacks against Nakhichevan. Aliyev praised Turkey in that respect.

The clashes that started with the Armenian attacks on Nakhichevan are far less intense than in the past few days. Suleyman Cil from the Turkish Radio and Television team in the region reports that the two sides occasionally fire at each other around (Mil) hill in Nakhichevan. Light weapons are being used.

Ambassador Omer Ersun, the head of the Turkish delegation visiting the region, has said that the delegation established that the Armenians are hunting for people with rifles equipped with telescopic sites and that this is inhuman behavior.

Turkish Diplomats Arrive in Nakhichevan

LD2305184492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A group of Turkish diplomats has arrived in Nakhichevan. Accompanied by Geydar Aliyev, they have visited the scene of combat actions on the border with Armenia. The purpose of the trip is to prepare Turkish Prime Minister Demirel for talks in Moscow on the Armenian-Azerbaijani crisis.

The talks with the Russian leadership in Moscow on that crisis are planned for Monday, 25 May.

Aliyev Comments on Talks

OW2305174392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 23 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Geidar Aliyev, Chairman of the Supreme Mejlis of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, told IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent that "so far Nakhichevan has asked Turkey just for moral support" in connection with the Armenian aggression. He also said he had informed the Turkish delegation led by the Prime Minister's special envoy, Omar Ersun, who arrived in Nakhichevan on May 21 about Armenia's raids on the republic's Sadarak and Marur district. The delegation, Aliyev went on to say, had visited Sadarak District, which adjoins Turkey, to examine the consequences of the aggression. He added that the Nakhichevan government had been in close contact with Turkey from the very beginning of the conflict.

Aliyev gave our correspondent a detailed account of his May 19 meeting with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan with whom he discussed the ways to stabilize the situation on the Armenian-Nakhichevan border. He said Ter-Petrosyan suggested putting up double checkpoints on the border supervised by Iran. Aliyev did not object to the plan but demanded that Armenia stop firing at Nakhichevan border towns and villages, and that it withdraw its forces from Nakhichevan's territory.

Aliyev said Russian servicemen had been spotted among the attacking Armenians.

Nakhichevan Leader Appeals to Iran for Help

LD2305161592 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 23 May 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Geydar Aliyev, head of the Supreme Council of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, telephoned Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Va'ezi this morning. Aliyev described the latest developments in the region and the clashes between Nakhichevan and Armenia. He appealed to Iran to take steps toward establishing a cease-fire and to follow that up by sending an Iranian observer team to the region. He also appealed to Iran to dispatch humanitarian aid.

In the course of the telephone conversation, Mr. Va'ezi, having outlined our country's declared stand in regard to the violation of Nakhichevan borders, declared Iran's support for the territorial integrity of that autonomous republic.

Meanwhile, the Armenian foreign minister stressed that Armenia will take recourse to the collective security pact signed by the CIS member countries if Turkey intervenes militarily in Caucasia. [passage omitted]

Iranian Observers Arrive in Nakhichevan

LD2305092992 Tehran IRNA in English 0635 GMT 23 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 23, IRNA—The first group of Iranian observers started preliminary works Friday [22 May] to probe the situation in Nakhichevan and deployment of permanent observers there, Iran's Ambassador to Baku Asghar Nahavandian told IRNA here Friday.

Nakhichevan President Geydar Aliyev in telephone contacts with the Iranian Embassy in Baku has appealed to the Islamic Republic of Iran to send observers to Armenia-Nakhichevan border areas, said Nahavandian. Following the request, an Iranian delegation was sent to the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan Thursday [21 May] and started the preliminaries on Friday. The team will report its findings to officials of Iran, Nakhichevan, Armenia and Azerbaijan, he said.

Meanwhile, advisor to the Armenian president, Vahan Papazian, in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Yerevan Bahram Qasemi Friday stressed the importance of Iran's mediation in the region and called for dispatch of observer forces to Armenia-Nakhichevan border.

The two officials also discussed the latest developments in the region, Iran's mediation efforts and prospects for mutual cooperation.

Papazian expressed regret for the current developments in the region and said Tehran can play an effective role in settling the regional problems. He also called for settlement of the regional disputes through peaceful means.

Aliyev, CIS Commander on Nakhichevan Fighting

LD2305194592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 May 92

[Video report by Z. Dzhafarov from Nakhichevan, including recorded remarks by Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Nakhichevan Supreme Majlis, at a news conference on 23 May, and remarks by Colonel Viktor Zhukov, chief of the detachment of CIS border guards on 23 May, place not given; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Dzhafarov] Over the past few days the conflict on the border between the Nakhichevan Republic and Armenia has become exacerbated. The town of (?Sharur) situated 70 km from Nakhichevan is now being fired upon. The peaceful civilians of Sadarak, who became refugees against their will, found refuge here. They have been housed partly on the territory of a mosque and partly in railroad cars. Rumors about the concentration of armed forces on the Turkish border have not been corroborated.

A delegation of the Foreign Ministry has arrived in the autonomous republic to study the situation. Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Supreme Majlis, said at a news conference.

[Aliyev] My appeal to Turkey consists in asking them to help us achieve a cease-fire, and for them to use their diplomatic and other possibilities.

[Dzhafarov] As far as the participation of units of the CIS in this conflict are concerned, Colonel Viktor Zhukov, chief of the detachment of border guards, said the following:

[Zhukov] There are simply exchanges of fire between the Armenian and in particular the Nakhichevan side here. Neither the first outpost of our detachment nor the neighboring outpost of the (?Artashen) detachment opened fire, nor will they open fire.

[Dzhafarov] Meanwhile, experts confirm that the Armenian side used chemical shells producing side effects on the skin. Despite Aliyev's talks with Ter-Petrosyan on an urgent cease-fire, over the past two days artillery shelling of Sadarak has been continuing. Official Nakhichevan maintains that the Turkish side is not serious enough about the Kars Treaty.

Aliyev Rejects Armenian President's Statement

LD2405224192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 24 May 92

[Interview with Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Supreme Majlis of Nikhichevan, by reporter Mamedov; place and date not given; from the "Itogi" newscast—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Aliyev] For the past eight months or so the situation on the border between Armenia and the Nakhichevan Republic was normal. This was the result of our contacts with the Armenian leadership and the leadership of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. I maintained constant telephone contact with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. Unfortunately, these contacts have been broken now. As soon as this conflict began, I made an effort to start immediate negotiations with Armenia's leadership. Unfortunately, this was not successful at the beginning, but, on 19 May and later, I had telephone conversations with Levon Ter-Petrosyan. He said that he does not support the continuation of the armed conflict and believes that it should be stopped. However, it is not stopping. I cannot agree with his assertion that this armed conflict was initiated by the Nakhichevan side. This absolutely does not correspond with reality. [passage omitted]

Aliyev Urges Unity Against Armenian Attacks

TA2705105992 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 0945 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Nakhichevan, May 27 (AA)—Nakhichevan President Geydar Aliyev called on the Azeris in Nakhichevan to unite and to defend the borders of the enclave.

As Armenian attacks on the enclave of Azerbaijan are continuing, Aliyev addressed the Azeris who gathered in front of the parliament building Tuesday [26 May] evening.

"I assure you that all the measures we are taking will yield their fruits and everyone should leave his own political ideas, to fight against the aggressors. I call you all to unite," he said.

His remarks came after the People's Front claimed that the administration was hiding the real facts about the Armenian attacks on the enclave since last Monday [18 May].

Nakhichevan Interior Minister Mamedov told AA's correspondent in place that a meeting with an Armenian delegation could not be materialized as the latter refused to meet in a neutral zone with equal distances to both sides.

Azeri delegations could not have a talk with Armenians as the latter refused three times in the last two days to hold any meeting on cease-fire.

At least 30 Azeris have been killed and 120 wounded since last Monday when Armenian forces captured Azeri hills overlooking Sadarak town. The Armenian attacks are continuing despite a previous declaration of unilateral cease-fire by Nakhichevan's leader Geydar Aliyev.

Red Cross Delegation 'Stranded' Under Fire

TA2505182892 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Armenians have opened fire on the Red Cross delegation visiting the defense lines within the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. The delegation was stranded at the defense lines for some time because of mortar fire from hills under Armenian control. Turkish Radio and Television correspondent Suleyman Cil reports that the Red Cross delegation, which had to cut short its fact-finding mission because of the firing, went to the district of Sadarak. The delegation visited the hospital and buildings that had been destroyed and asked Nakhichevan officials for a list of the missing Azerbaijani militiamen.

Another Red Cross delegation is visiting Armenia.

Meanwhile, following a call from the Armenian side, a Nakhichevan delegation headed by the deputy interior minister left for the Russian brigade at the border to hold cease-fire talks. We have not received any information as to whether the Armenian side has arrived for the talks.

An Azerbaijani militiaman was killed and another injured as a result of the intermittent Armenian fire on Nakhichevan today.

Meanwhile, a Nakhichevan Development and Defense Fund has been established. The fund was set up at a meeting attended by representatives from the various sectors of the community. The money accumulated in the fund, whose establishment was proposed by President Aliyev, will be used in the development and defense of Nakhichevan. Commenting on the latest developments at the meeting, Aliyev praised Turkey for its efforts to make the world realize the Armenian aggression.

Armenians Fail To Show for Nakhichevan Talks

TA2405203892 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] The talks for a permanent cease-fire proposed by the Armenian side, following the unilateral cease-fire decision on the part of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, were not held today because the Armenian delegation did not arrive. The Nakhichevan delegation, which traveled to the Russian regiment on the border to hold the talks, turned back.

Nakhichevan President Geydar Aliyev reported that in the wake of the recent Armenian attacks and attitude, he telephoned the Armenian authorities tonight, but was unable to speak to them. Aliyev remarked that the Armenians' recent stand amazed him and that the situation has deteriorated. Aliyev said that when Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati telephoned him today, he conveyed to Velayati his complaints about Iran. During their conversation, Velayati pledged that Iran will send aid to Nakhichevan via the Iranian Red Crescent.

Meanwhile, a three-person Turkish Red Crescent delegation left for Nakhichevan today.

Temporary Cease-Fire Declared in Nakhichevan

TA2705104592 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1000 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] A temporary cease-fire has been declared between Nakhichevan and Armenia to allow for the retrieval of bodies. According to Turkish Radio and Television correspondent Suleyman Cil, the bodies in the area of clashes will be retrieved under the auspices of the Red Cross.

Meanwhile, a UN delegation is expected to go to the region today to investigate the clashes that erupted following Armenian attacks on Nakhichevan. Preparations are also under way in Nakhichevan for tomorrow's ceremony to inaugurate the bridge between Turkey and Nakhichevan and for Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's visit on the occasion.

CIS Army Reportedly Shells Nakhichevan Rayon

LD2605221392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 26 May 92

[Report by correspondent from Baku]

[Text] Despite assurances of its intention to stabilize relations with Nakhichevan, the Armenian leadership in reality has yet to take any decisive steps to stop the military actions on the border, according to Gaydar Aliyev, chairman of the Nakhichevan Supreme Majlis.

The Azerbaijan Defense Ministry reports shelling of the Nakhichevan republic from Armenian territory has continued today. Sadarak and villages in Sadarakskiy Rayon were shelled by heavy guns from heights occupied by the Armenian national army. The Border Post 14 of the Russian Armed Forces fired at Sadarak from armored vehicles. As a result of this intensive fire, 2 local inhabitants of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic were killed and 3 were wounded. Fighting continues to this moment.

The Azerbaijan Defense Ministry reports that armored units of the Armenian national army at night penetrated into Zangelanskiy and Kubatlinskiy Rayons in Azerbaijan. Their progress was halted by the Azerbaijani defense forces. Fighting is continuing in these rayons. According to the Defense Ministry's press center, two Azerbaijani national guardsmen have been wounded. There are many wounded among the local population.

The rayon center of the Fizulinskiy rayon was shelled by Grad installations and by the Kristall rockets. As a result, six Fizuli inhabitants were killed and one wounded.

The most acute situation at this hour has developed in Ordubadskiy Rayon of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. According to the latest information just received from the press center at the Supreme Majlis of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, the 26,000 people of Ordubadskiy Rayon are in a state of panic. From early this morning, practically all the villages of Ordubadskiy Rayon were subjected to the heavy artillery, mortar, and rocket fire from the territory of Armenia.

The Nakhichevan Supreme Majlis press center reports that Ordubadskiy Rayon was also shelled by the units of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

Georgia

Further Reportage on Tskinvali Killings

Shevardnadze Condemns Massacre

OW2405135492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1309 GMT 24 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze on Sunday [24 May] sent a message of condolences to the South Ossetian leader, Torez Kouloumbekov, following last Wednesday's [20 May] killings outside Tskhinval. (full text below).

"The State Council of the Republic of Georgia has qualified the horrendous crime perpetrated near Tskhinval on May 20 as a barbarous fascist act spearheaded against the interests of the Georgian and Ossetian people.

The unprecedented atrocity by destructive fascist forces aimed against our peoples deserves merciless international condemnation.

We shall do our utmost to expose and punish the culprits.

We express our deep condolences to the bereft families.

We sincerely regret that a Georgian government delegation is unable to join you in extending directly its sincere sympathies with the families of the dead victims."

Meanwhile the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia demanded today that the South Ossetian authorities allow Georgian experts to examine the bodies and the place where the crime had been committed (earlier on they had turned down Georgia's request to that effect). Otherwise the claims that dozens of refugees had been deliberately killed would be regarded as untrue and exaggerated.

According to reports from Tskhinval, more than 30 persons were killed in an attack on a column of Ossetian refugees near the village of Kekhvi on May 20.

The Deputy Chairman of the State Council of Georgia, Jaba Ioseliani, and Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Kavsadze were going to leave Tbilisi for Tskhinval today (May 24) to attend the funeral, but, as Kavsadze told our correspondent, South Ossetian officials had at the last moment advised them to cancel their journey in view of strong anti-Georgian sentiments in Tskhinval. The presence of a Georgian delegation at the funeral might cause disturbances, they said.

Judging by Shevardnadze's telegram, the Georgian delegation followed the advice.

Security Stepped Up

LD2305131292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 23 May 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] By decision of the Presidium of Georgia's State Council, the mobilization of all the republic's lawful militarized formations, along with their transfer to barracks, was announced on 22 May. This has been brought about, an announcement from the State Council press center says, by the increased activity of destructive forces in the republic, particularly the supporters of ex-President Gamsakhurdia. It is proposed to provide increased protection for bridges, roads, and public buildings, and to step up control over those entering and leaving Tbilisi. These measures are connected with the tragedy on the Tskhinval-Dzhava road, where Georgian terrorists shot and killed Ossetian refugees.

Defense Minister Comments

LD2205201892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 22 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The situation in Shida Kartli remains tense. CSCE experts met refugees in Gori yesterday, and then left for Tskhinvali together with Georgian Deputy Prime Minister Sandro Kavsadze. They acquainted themselves with the details of the tragedy which took place on the circuit road connecting Tskhinvali and Dzhava on 20 May and which, according to the information of the Osetian side, resulted in the death of 31 Osetians, including 11 women and three children. A three-day mourning has been declared in Tskhinvali.

Unfortunately, the Georgian procurator's office is not able to carry out an investigation at the place of the incident because Terez Kulumbekov, leader of the Osetian movement, did not allow the Georgian deputy prime minister into Tskhinvali. However, on the basis of several versions given by perpetrators of the incident, both sides have arrived at the conclusion that this provocation was carried out by Gamsakhurdia's supporters.

[Begin Georgian Defense Minister Kitovani recording] This very fact, this act of vandalism which took place on 20 May, is naturally being viewed in such a way—well, every nation would condemn this outright. It looks as if it was some sort of a provocation which, by the way, coincided with the arrival of the European commissions which are studying the situation throughout Georgia. Naturally, it makes one think that it was arranged on purpose. Of course, such an act of vandalism must be assessed politically. [end recording]

'Pogrom' Forecasted

LD2505114892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1050 GMT 25 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 25 May—South Ossetia remains tense. According to today's reports from the republic's Supreme Soviet, shots were again fired last night in the places hardest hit by the crisis. Preliminary reports indicate that three civilians were killed and seven people wounded. The Ossetian side, which for a week had strictly observed the conditions of the tripartite Tskhinval cease-fire accord, was forced again to return fire.

Details of the tragedy near the village of Kekhvi are still coming in. A witness who miraculously survived, told representatives of the investigating group from North and South Ossetia that the group of killers numbered about 30. They shot at people's heads. After taking reprisals against defenseless women, children, and old people they withdrew to the Georgian village of Kekhvi.

According to the Vladimir Kochieyv, internal affairs minister of South Ossetia, intelligence reports show that further bloodshed is being prepared, but this time on the Georgian side. The sinister scenario is that one of the Georgian villages on the border with South Ossetia will be burned. News of the imminent pogrom was urgently transmitted to Tbilisi.

Settlements Shelled

LD2605114392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1111 GMT 26 May 92

[By SAKINFORM correspondent Temo Napishviliy for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi May 26 TASS—Ossetian self defense forces opened heavy artillery and rocket fire from Tskhinvali on Georgian settlements in South Ossetia late on Tuesday [26 May]. Five villages were set on fire, casualties were reported.

Grachev Asked To Evacuate

LD2505132692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] An RIA correspondent has learned from reliable sources that Army General Grachev, Minister of Defense of Russia, was sent a second coded message on 25 May, asking if pilots of the helicopter regiment of the CIS troops stationed in Tskhinvali can be allowed to evacuate the women, children, and elderly persons from five villages in South Ossetia. All the settlements are blockaded by Georgian guerrillas who are threatening the peaceful inhabitants with physical violence.

The coded message was signed by Galazov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of North Ossetia, and Kolumbekov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of South Ossetia.

Shevardnadze Sends Condolences to South Ossetia

LD2405213392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 24 May 92

[From the "Itogi" newscast]

[Text] We have received another report from Tbilisi today in evidence of the Georgian leadership's attempts to relieve the tense situation. Eduard Shevardnadze today sent a telegram with condolences to South Ossetian leader Torez Kulumbekov. Its text says that this unprecedented evil deed of the facist destructive forces—and I quote—which was directed against the Georgian and Ossetian peoples deserves ruthless international condemnation. We should make every effort to catch and punish the criminals, wrote Eduard Shevardnadze in his telegram.

Pro-Gamsakhurdia Demonstrators Mark Holiday

LD2605211192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 26 May 92

[Report by correspondent Zargaryan; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Georgia marked its independence day today. In addition to official festivities, there was a 5,000-strong demonstration in the city. It demanded the reinstatement of President Gamsakhurdia, who was removed from power, and the State Council's resignation. Militiamen fired guns into the air.

[Zargaryan] Georgia is marking independence day today, 26 May. People usually give presents and receive guests on holidays; in addition to this, the curfew was lifted in Tbilisi. James Baker, who arrived in Georgia, is both a dear guest of and an invaluable present for Eduard Shevardnadze. After all, pulling the country out of isolation is so far the only achievement of the current leadership. Georgia has lived effectively in a state of civil war for six months. The date 26 May is not just a national holiday, but also the anniversary of the presidential elections. The overwhelming majority of citizens exactly one year ago elected Zviad Gamsakhurdia the first president of an independent Georgia during free elections. Thousands of his supporters have not yet accepted the methods that were used to remove the president from power, and they are marking their own anniversary today.

'Warning Shots' Fired

LD2605222292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1938 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Tbilisi—The May 26 meeting held by Zviad Gamsakhurdia's supporters, was dispersed after firing warning shots. Plain-clothes officers of the law-enforcement bodies have carried out an operation to

disperse a 4-thousand-people meeting. According to unofficial information, several persons have been detained.

Shevardnadze Meets Turkish Foreign Minister

OW2205190992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1701 GMT 22 May 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [21 May] the Chairman of the State Council Eduard Shevardnadze received the Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin who had come to Tbilisi for an official visit.

When the Soviet Union disintegrated, a whole number of new political realities emerged, said E. Shevardnadze. The world community, Europe and countries in this region cannot be indifferent as to what the former Soviet republics will choose: the path to democracy or dictatorial regimes. The second option cannot be ruled out in conditions of severe crisis, anarchy and chaos, said the Chairman of Georgia's State Council. These circumstances heighten the role of countries which prefer the democratic path of development, which are capable of serving as guarantors of democracy, an example for neighboring peoples and countries, as their support. We view Turkey as such a guarantor, E. Shevardnadze pointed out.

According to him, the contours of a new danger: East-West confrontation stemming this time from religious, sectarian and other motives, are becoming visible. We are confident, said E. Shevardnadze, that Georgia is in a position to do much to avert this danger, because it presents a unique example of peaceful coexistence between Christianity and Islam and centuries-old cooperation between different confessions in the framework of a united state.

In this context, E. Shevardnadze pointed out, relations between Georgia and Turkey should encompass all areas, from governmental to cultural, relying on neighborliness based on realism, trust and openness.

Priority should be given, E. Shevardnadze went on to say, to the efforts to build a solid legal foundation based on a treaty or declaration on the principles of relations between Georgia and Turkey. Subsequently it would be necessary to sign an agreement on cooperation in different areas of activity: from economics to the endeavours to jointly resolve problems connected with the Black Sea. Agreements designed to protect investment, promote cooperation between law-enforcing agencies, combat terrorism and other transnational crimes should also be signed.

We could agree to organize in the near future regular meetings on the level of heads of government, defence ministers, foreign ministers and economics ministers, said the Chairman of Georgia's State Council.

With reference to the international and regional aspect of bilateral ties E. Shevardnadze stressed that in this area the two countries also have common interests expressed in the following formula: peace, stability, trust, neighborliness. In this context, he said, we must define our attitudes to internal conflicts. The principle of noninterference remains inviolable, but much can be achieved by joint efforts in an atmosphere of trust and openness. In this connection the idea of a regional consultative organization working in the interests of peace and confidence acquires particular importance.

One of the best ways to develop national economies is integration, said the head of Georgia's State Council. He pointed to the need to form a united Eurasian economic space where the Black Sea would serve as a unifying factor. Further on the Black Sea countries could pass from economic cooperation to the endeavours to resolve the problems of collective security for the local states by creating a corresponding system.

The Chairman of the State Council said that Georgia is counting on effective aid from Turkey in joining the European processs, the activities of the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank. In Shevardnadze's opinion "Our membership in the UN is not far off, Turkey can help us in this area, too".

Cetin said that Turkey is the first nation to recognize the independence and sovereignty of Georgia and the two nations have a similar history—both Georgians and Turks live on their territories. "I am convinced the two nations will form a human bridge and different religions will not hinder friendly relations".

Commenting that the Turkish government is interested in peace and stability in the Caucasus, the minister expressed the certainty that "Eduard Shevardnadze's political experience will help resolve the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh". He also supported the proposal to create a system of collective security in the Black Sea region and a consultative council of the Caucasus.

Cetin expressed the desire that the world community would take serious steps to help the republic overcome its economic crisis and assured Shevardnadze that being a co-chairman of the European Council will bring all the necessary strength for the development of relations with European nations and republics of the former Soviet Union. The Turkish Foreign Minister said that there will be a meeting on Prime Ministers of European nations and republics of the former USSR in early September.

During the talks both sides expressed the mutual desire to develop a law guaranteeing foreign investments, open joint ventures and banks, and assist in establishing direct air routes between the two nations, simplify the visa system, and create the conditions for maximum profitability in trade and economic relations between Georgia and Turkey.

Eduard Shevardnadze and Cetin noted the importance of signing an agreement on friendly relations between Georgia and Turkey.

Baker Arrives in Georgia for 'Historic' Visit

LD2605092892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 26 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Georgia on 26 May. Tengiz Sigua, acting prime minister of the republic, in an interview to a RIA correspondent, described this event as a historic one in the life of Georgia.

Meets With Shevardnadze

LD2605093792 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] The U.S. Secretary of State, James Baker, paying an unofficial working visit to Georgia, has said U.S.-Georgian relations are reaching a new phase. Speaking in Tbilisi after talks with the Chairman of Georgia's State Council, Eduard Shevardnadze, Mr. Baker praised the determination of the Georgian leaders to embark on democratic reforms.

Satisfaction Expressed

OW2605165692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1547 GMT 26 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze said he was satisfied with the talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Monday [25 May] and Tuesday [26 May].

Speaking on Tuesday at a joint press conference Shevardnadze said that the U.S. could do a great deal to help normalize the almost ruined Georgian economy. "However, we can not ask too much today," he added.

Speaking about the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, he said that it was provoked and that it was so long-dragged-out that it will be difficult to restore peace.

James Baker said that the U.S. supported the Georgian leaders' efforts to build a democratic society and free market. He also promised to continue supplying Georgia with humanitarian aid.

Baker on 'Fruitful' Visit

LD2605183192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1734 GMT 26 May 92

[By SAKINFORM correspondents Galina Chikovaniy and Yuriy Goldman]

[Text] Tbilisi May 26 TASS—Head of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze described the Georgian visit of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker as a statement on "the world leading state's support of the Georgian forces advocating genuine independence guaranteed by real democratic institutions and strong free economy".

Baker stayed in Tbilisi for two days on an unofficial working visit to meet heads of the republican government, members of the State Council presidium and leaders of various parties. He visited the ancient Georgian capital of Mtskheta and participated in commemoration of the day of restoration of Georgian state independence.

Baker told a news conference his visit was timely and fruitful. He said he planned to come to Georgia later but then decided he must support Georgian democratic processes right now.

The U.S. state secretary noted they will have perfect relations if democracy gains strength, human rights and interests of ethnic minorities are observed in Georgia.

Baker believes Georgia aims to transform and build a peace-loving, tolerant and progressive society. The United States has decided to render comprehensive assistance to Georgia on its way towards major political reforms and economic freedom.

Tonight the state secretary left Tbilisi. At the airport he was seen off by Eduard Shevardnadze and other officials.

Estonia

Border Guard Takes Control of CIS Settlement

OW2505225792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1905 GMT 25 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The servicemen of the Border Guard Department and the soldiers of the Kuperjanov battalion of the Estonian Defense Forces assumed control over the military settlement of the CIS AD [armored division] troops in the town of Valga in the south of the Republic last Sunday [24 May]. In the words of the Acting Minister of Defense Mr Uno Veering, who made a public appearance at the news conference in Tallinn this Monday [25 May], this act had been performed in compliance with the decision of the Estonian Parliament in regards to nationalization of property of the former USSR military units deployed on the territory of Estonia. Besides, Mr Veering maintains, it was essential to preclude further thefts and wastes of the military gear stored on the territory of the unit.

Several hours later, Lt. Gen. [Lieutenant General] Ivanov, commanding 6th Separate Air Defence Army, forwarded a cable from St. Petersburg to the Government of Estonia. Lt. Gen. Ivanov qualifies the events at Valga as a "gross infringement on the sovereignty of Russia and on the status of Russian troops stationed in Estonia". The General demands that the territory of the military settlement be immediately vacated and those responsible punished. The Estonian Ministry of Defense alleges that several groups of armed soldiers had been dispatched to the vicinity of the town of Valga.

It was only owing to the successful talks with the command of the Russian troops in Estonia, that the incident had been settled and the military command agreed not to resort to force and resolve it through the negotiations.

Mr Veering indicated to Baltfax that Tallinn intends to lodge an official protest to Russia in relation with the incident in Valga.

In the meantime, Capt. [Captain] Aare Evisalu, chief of the control center of the Estonian Border Guard Department, notified Baltfax that at sunrise this Monday the Estonian border guards occupied the territory of a military construction unit #63313 located in Tallinn. In the words of Capt. Evisalu, the unit personnel had been withdrawn from the territory of the unit, and it was only guarded by two sentries.

Capt. Evisalu also informed that almost all the equipment of the military unit had earlier been withdrawn by Russia's military personnel, its territory and constructions having been sold to a number of joint stock companies. So long as the Tallinn City Hall does not possess any sale-and-purchase records, he averred, this transaction would be pronounced null and void.

Government Issues Statement

LD2505163192 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 25 May 92

[Estonian Government statement on shooting incident in Valga read by Uno Veering, minister of state, acting defense minister, and acting government leader—live or recorded]

[Text] On 23 January 1992, the Republic of Estonia's Supreme Council declared that all ex-Soviet Army buildings, structures, weapons, equipment, and other property located on Estonian territory were the property of the Republic of Estonia. On the basis of this resolution and Estonian Government order 209K of 22 May 1992, an Estonian border guard unit took control of the ex-Soviet Army military townlet in Valga on the morning of 24 May, having previously informed the unit's commander of this. Talks about this military townlet had been taking place for a considerable time already between the border guard department and the ex-USSR military representatives. As the military unit that had previously been using the townlet no longer had any need of it, representatives of the Russian Army agreed to sell it to the Republic of Estonia for 2.5 million rubles and to vacate it immediately. Buying an installation that actually belongs to the Republic of Estonia from foreign troops is in conflict with the Supreme Council resolution.

As the unlawful and extensive selling of military property, as well as vandalism of this property, is taking place in the Republic of Estonia by the ex-USSR military, it was necessary to take immediate control of the Valga military installation to prevent this from happening. The takeover took place peacefully, without the use of arms or physical force. Because of his unbalanced behavior, a soldier of the ex-USSR troops, now in the reserves, was slightly injured. [passage omitted]

At 1320 [on 24 May], Lieutenant General (?Ivanov), commander of the 6th Air-Defense Corps stationed in St. Petersburg, sent a telegram to the Estonian Government in which he termed the event a crude infringement of both Russian sovereignty and the status of Russian troops stationed in the Republic of Estonia. He demanded that the townlet be immediately vacated and the culprits punished, and said that if his demands are not met any measures, including force, would be implemented. At the same time, several groups of armed soldiers had gathered near Valga. During the talks held with military representatives, an agreement was reached that the Army will not use force and that the issue will be resolved through talks.

The government of the Republic of Estonia states once again that there is no legal basis for foreign troops to remain in the Republic of Estonia. All installations and property that have been used by the Russian Army belong to the Republic of Estonia, and any buying or selling of these are illegal without the permission of the Estonian Government. The Estonian Government believes it necessary that the troops that are withdrawing

hand over the installations at their disposal in good and usable condition to the appropriate bodies in the Republic of Estonia.

[Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1400 GMT on 25 May 92 reports details of the Valga incident: "One of the bold self-defense fighters took a submachine-gun and went for a walk in town. He ended his walk at the railway station, where he forced his way onto a Petersburg-Riga train passing through Valga. He broke down the door of a compartment and threatened everyone with his gun. An attempt was made to disarm him, and when this failed, the commander of the self-defense battalion had to use a weapon. He was wounded and died on the way to hospital."]

Latvia

Air Force Flights Over Territory Restricted

OW2205201092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1837 GMT 22 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvia's Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis told newsmen in Riga that as of June 1 the former Soviet Air Force will be required to license flights over Latvian territory. He said the Commander of the north-western group of troops Valeriy Mironov had been advised of Riga's decision. If the military choose to ignore the decision, Latvia might move to ban all flights over its territory, including international flights by commercial airlines.

The Latvian Defense Minister felt it was impossible to guarantee the safety of commercial flights if unidentified Army aircraft were sharing the air space.

Defense Minister Proposes Baltic Cooperation

LD2305225192 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] What is the place of Latvia in the collective security system of Europe? This question was discussed today by a commission formed by specialists of the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs together with deputies of the Supreme Council's Commission for Foreign Affairs and Commission for Defense and Internal Affairs. Cooperation with NATO, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Western European Union, contacts with various European states on military questions, and mutual cooperation of the Baltic states in security and military spheres were discussed.

In the opinion of Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia might cooperate at the level of military experts, exchange military information, and develop a joint military policy, especially in the spheres of air defense and naval forces' activity. Talavs Jundzis announced that the commission has drawn up a draft agreement on the cooperation of the Baltic states in the military sphere. Although it is still a long way until signing such an agreement, the minister of defense said an acceptance in principle of this agreement has been reached in provisional talks among military specialists both from the Lithuanian and Estonian sides.

Ambassador Presents Credentials to Gorbunovs

LD2105143192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1340 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Riga May 21 TASS—Russian Ambassador to Latvia Aleksandr Rannikh presented his credentials today to Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of the Latvian Supreme Soviet.

Biographical information about the 42-year-old diplomat and his views was published in the local press the day before. Rannikh, who has been in the diplomatic service for 20 years, hopes that his knowledge of Scandinavian countries and long-term service in the Embassy in Finland will help him understand Latvia, which is apparently leaning towards the Nordic states. He mentioned among his priority tasks such problems as human rights, withdrawal of troops, improvement of economic relations between the two states. According to Rannikh's statement, published in the newspaper "DIENA", the republic would only stand to gain if its Russian- speaking population was to enjoy equal rights with the Letts in building a free Latvia.

The Russian ambassador said his diplomatic staff would consist of only six people. The problem of housing the embassy in the building where it used to be in the past has not been solved yet. "Russia, which has turned over to Latvia its embassy building in Moscow, has every right to expect reciprocity," Rannikh believes.

News Conference Given

OW2105190792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1812 GMT 21 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Increasing economic ties between Russia and Latvia may become a hopeful factor in relations between the two nations, Russian Ambassador to Latvia Aleksandr Rannikh said at a press conference in Riga.

Discussing the priorities of his diplomatic work, Rannikh stressed that one of the main political questions is the withdrawal of Russian forces from the Baltic states. He said that the Russian Army, currently located in Latvia, is not an occupational force. The problem requires delicate and a serious decision through intergovernment talks, the Ambassador said.

Rannikh is certain that the stoppage of shipments and the ignorance of economic agreements by Russia is the result of economic chaos in the republic and these incidents should not be considered economic sanctions against Latvia. Russian-Latvian economic cooperation

should be continued since it would be reckless to break such long-standing relations, he said.

Lithuania

Landsbergis on Referendum, Voter Turnout

LD2405131492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0700 GMT 24 May 92

[Statement by Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis at a news conference at the Supreme Council—live]

[Text] Esteemed journalists, the results of the voting [on restoration of the presidency referendum], which took place yesterday, are interesting, significant, and important in many aspects.

As you have heard, 57.5 percent of the voters—citizens with the right to vote—turned out to vote. Thus, there were not very many. They could have been more numerous. Well, in essence, they have probably decided a certain result, since the 42.5 percent who failed to turn out indicate a certain passivity among citizens.

Well, of those whom I would describe as those of an active civic conviction—individuals who turned out to vote and who voted, either for or against—thus, you see that approximately 40 percent of the overall number of voters comprises those who voted for, who have given a yes answer, while approximately 17.5 percent of the overall number of voters is comprised of those who are clearly aware and voted no. Thus, one part of the entire vote was determined—the juridical part of this vote was determined—simply by a sufficiently large percentage of those who did not participate, in general. If we look at how the results of those who participated appear—of those who wished to express their will and knew what they wanted to state—69.2 percent have answered "yes" while 25.6 percent have stated "no."

Well, there are also quite a large number of invalid votes. However, they would not have altered that juridical side of the decision. In effect, there were an insufficient number of individuals of an actively civic conviction who voted yes, and the fact alone that the referendum had taken place did not suffice, since if there had been fewer than 50.00 percent, it would be considered as not having taken place.

Now that it has taken place, however, it has not yielded a specific solution to that question concerning which the citizens of Lithuania have expressed their opinion. The result is without a solution. It remains, so to speak, unobtained in a juridical sense. The law has not been adopted, in accordance with which one could already prepare presidential elections. Well, it is a political result, a certain poll-like verification of how the people regard the current state of affairs.

Let us consider questions such as: Does Lithuania require a president or not? Is there hope for improved order or something similar, or is it linked to the institution of the presidency? Well, and others—which political platform in Lithuania does one believe in more—the Sajudis coalition for a democratic Lithuania or the conditionally named leftist bloc? Thus, such public opinions, the results of a peculiar rating, have been obtained. The direct goal of the referendum is a juridical act and a juridical solution.

This process here of the undecided, or the doubtful, or the disturbed—those not having an opinion, regarding which side, that is agitating, or explaining in one way or another, is the more righteous one. There are approximately 42 percent of those who perhaps, for this reason, or perhaps because of some farm work or some other work, have not turned out to vote.

My observations are approximately such on the results of this vote. Of course, it would be well to know by means of some type of polling to learn about the conviction and reason of those who did not vote that prompted them to abstain from voting.

Meanwhile, we of course can not proceed in the manner suggested by one old farmer, that in cases where there is a failure to vote, the non votes should be divided in half, and one half added to the plus side, and the other to the minus side. We do not have this type of order. The law provides, namely, only for the plus count, while in this case, this plus was not sufficient to produce a law resulting from the referendum.

Such are my comments upon the results of the referendum as I view them.

Political Tension 'Not Eased'

LD2405183292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1815 GMT 24 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kazis Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius May 24 TASS—"The situation in Lithuania remains virtually the same as it was before the referendum." "The referendum has not eased the political tension," and in these conditions "preparation for the election to the Sejm, new Lithuanian parliament, should become the main trend of political life." Such is the gist of an interview to ITAR-TASS by President of the Lithuanian Parliament Vytautas Landsbergis.

"The referendum has been held, but it has not produced a specific decision," Lansbergis said, commenting at a news conference in the Lithuanian parliament on Sunday [24 May] on the preliminary results of Saturday's referendum in Lithuania on the question of the restoration of presidency.

Although the reforms of power proposed by Sajudis have not been supported by the population, Landsbergis believes that the attitude to Sajudis virtually remains unchanged, while the results of the referendum showed that there are many people who are uncertain, have doubts or are perplexed.

Vaclovas Litvinas, deputy chairman of the republican electoral commission, who was present at the news conference, said that according to preliminary results 39.87 percent of people having the right to participate in the referendum voted for the restoration of presidency in Lithuania. Voter turnout at polling stations amounted to about 57.5 percent.